

**JOE DONNELLY**  
UNITED STATES SENATOR FOR INDIANA

# ANNUAL REPORT 2014

VALOR AND OF COURAGE  
UNDERSTANDING FAITHFUL AND LOYAL SERVICE AT HOME  
TRUE UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF  
RE PATRIOTISM AND RESPECT FOR THE L  
E ADMINISTERED PUBLIC ORDER MAINTAIN  
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### *The Man in the Middle*

"With the first year of his freshman term behind him, Donnelly is now positioning himself as the nation's most moderate legislator. No, it's not sexy. But he's pretty sure it's what you want."

—Indianapolis Monthly, 6.10.14

Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette:  
Donnelly Seeks to 'End the Tragedy'  
December 11, 2014



"Last week, he was consensus building on the floor of the U.S. Senate, today Joe Donnelly was building RV's on the floor of a factory. Donnelly began his day working on the finishing line at Thor Industries in Elkhart. 'I did my best. I was a little bit slower than some of the other workers but it was great to be on the line to be working with them,' said U.S. Senator Joseph Donnelly, (D) Indiana." —WNDU, 8.4.14



Indianapolis Star: Tully: Sen. Joe Donnelly - Indiana's Man in the Middle  
December 22, 2014



### *The Man in the Middle*

"Hoosier common sense is when you look at issues, and there's people over on the left who are advocating one side, there's people over on the right pushing real hard as well, and usually Hoosier common sense finds you in the middle, looking at things and going, How can we make it better for our families? How can we create more jobs? How can we create more opportunity? How can we focus on Indiana and our country rather than worrying about the politics?"  
—Indianapolis Monthly, 6.10.14

# A JOB FOR EVERY HOOSIER

## **Opportunity Agenda**

In January, Joe expanded upon the “Opportunity Agenda” he introduced in his maiden speech to create more jobs and strengthen Indiana’s economy. In year two of his six-year Senate term, Joe continued to build out this four-point agenda: helping workers hit the ground running by improving workforce development and training, going all-in on American energy, investing in American infrastructure, and keeping our state competitive through exports and innovations.

## ***Hitting the Ground Running: Passage of Workforce Development & Training Legislation***

Joe consistently hears from employers that they are ready to hire, but often have difficulty finding workers with the right skills sets to fill open positions. As a result of this "skills gap," good-paying jobs in Indiana are going unfilled. Estimates by the Manufacturing Institute and Deloitte indicate that there are as many as 600,000 manufacturing-related job openings in the country that remain unfilled because employers are not able to find workers with the necessary skills. Joe thinks we need to make sure Hoosiers have the tools they need to compete.



In July, elements of Joe’s bills to help close the skills gap were signed into law. The bipartisan Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) will improve our nation’s workforce development system and help put Hoosiers back to work by making much-needed changes to modernize and improve our job training programs across the country. It includes part of Joe’s *AMERICA Works Act* and many other priorities he has championed.

Joe was pleased that WIOA was signed into law because it will help prepare Hoosiers for the jobs that are available now and will enable businesses to find the skilled employees they need to succeed in today’s economy. He believes we still have a lot of work to do to get people back to work and looks forward to the day when jobs are competing for the same workers instead of workers competing for the same job.

## **AMERICA Works Act**

Donnelly introduced the bipartisan *AMERICA Works Act* in March 2013 with Senators Kay Hagan (D-NC) and Dean Heller (R-NV). The legislation would help close the skills gap by focusing on the training that employers need now. The newly-enacted WIOA includes a provision from the *AMERICA Works Act* that modifies existing federal training programs to ensure one-stop job training centers like the WorkOne facilities in Indiana place a priority on the programs and certifications that are recognized and in-demand by industry.



"President Barack Obama seeks to do administratively what Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Ind., has tried to accomplish through legislation: tie federal job training programs closer to the job market. Obama issued a memorandum Thursday instructing the Labor, Commerce and Education departments to develop an action plan to make training programs 'more job-driven, integrated, and effective.' The president's initiative would include 'promoting more active engagement' among employers and training programs to identify the skills, education and credentials that workers need for available jobs. The action plan also calls for training programs to improve the accountability of their outcomes – jobs and worker earnings." -Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette, 1.31.14

### Skills Gap Strategy Act

WIOA also echoes many of the priorities outlined by Joe in his *Skills Gap Strategy Act*, introduced with Heller in October 2013, by taking steps to update and improve our country's workforce development system, including: boosting employer participation; better aligning training programs with the jobs that are available now; and increasing the ability of workers to take advantage of on-the-job training, apprenticeships, and other opportunities.

The bipartisan WIOA modernizes existing programs and replaces the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, which was passed to support job training, career development, and job search assistance programs, including the nationwide system of one-stop job centers. The Workforce Investment Act had not been reauthorized since it expired in 2003, even though Congress continued to fund most of the programs it established. WIOA will streamline the existing workforce development system and seek to make it more efficient by eliminating 15 ineffective or duplicative programs. In addition, it will require each state to create strategic plans and job training initiatives to ensure local markets have the workers they need.

"Donnelly believes there is a 'very true' skills gap throughout the state. He says he has seen billboards in northwest Indiana for steel manufacturer ArcelorMittal offering \$90,000 per year for maintenance technician workers with proper training. The Democrat also believes Indiana can benefit from proposed federal measures including the America Works Act and Skills Gap Strategy Act. Donnelly says, as manufacturing jobs return to the United States, the measures would make sure training dollars go to the areas where jobs are available."  
-Inside Indiana Business, 2.19.14

### Secretary Perez Visit

In September, following WIOA becoming law, Donnelly hosted U.S. Secretary of Labor Tom Perez for a series of visits with Indiana workers, students, and employers to discuss and highlight some of the innovative job training approaches in the Indianapolis area. U.S. Representative André Carson joined them for the visits.

Secretary Perez said of the visit, "...By working with local employers, community colleges, and the workforce system, [Hoosier schools are] expanding opportunity for students while putting them on pathways to the middle class. Senator Donnelly and Congressman Carson

both share my commitment to creating and expanding opportunity, because whether you're a student, a worker, or an employer, your zip code should not determine your destiny."

## ***Going All-In on American Energy***

### **Supporting a Strong Renewable Fuel Standard**

On November 15, 2013, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a proposed rule for the 2014 Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) program that would lower requirements for total renewable fuel and advanced biofuel. This change would decrease the volume of renewable-fuel production required, potentially undermining domestic biofuel production and threatening an important Indiana industry.

At the beginning of 2014, Joe expressed frustration and disappointment with the proposed rule. He said at the time, "Supporting domestic energy production like the ethanol and biodiesel coming from Hoosier farms is critical to reducing our dependence on foreign oil and boosting Indiana's economy." Responding to the proposed rule, he also sent a letter with 30 other senators to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy expressing concerns with the proposed changes.

Joe continued to press on biofuel issues important to Indiana with colleagues in May, when he joined Senators Heidi Heitkamp (D-ND), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Maria Cantwell (D-WA), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), and Al Franken (D-MN) to express support for restoring the lapsed Biodiesel Tax Credit and to call on the Obama Administration to revise its proposal for the RFS.

### **Encouraging Production of Domestic Ethanol and Biodiesel**

In June, Donnelly and Senator Mike Johanns (R-NE) requested more information on the EPA's plans to improve the approval process for new biofuels and to reconsider agency actions that have created significant uncertainty in the marketplace. They wrote, "In recent months, EPA's actions have increased the risk of investing in the renewable fuels industry by creating uncertainty in the marketplace, which has put investment dollars in jeopardy and slowed the deployment of domestic renewable fuels. We urge you to change course."



For new biofuels to qualify under the Renewable Fuel Standard, EPA has to review the new technologies to make sure they meet certain requirements. For years, delays with EPA's petition process have slowed the development of new biofuels. In March 2014, the agency announced plans to improve the process. The Senators were pleased that EPA acknowledged the problems with the length of its reviews, but unfortunately, the agency also announced it would stop processing non-priority applications and suggested that new applicants consider delaying applications until after EPA's review process is

completely updated. This is yet another agency action that will slow the deployment of new biofuels, so Donnelly and Johanns requested more information from the EPA detailing the agency's plan to improve the petition process.

The Senators urged the EPA to reassess its efforts, writing,

"The United States is leading the transition away from oil to renewable transportation fuels. We cannot afford to cede this leadership role and slow our own progress at such a critical time for the sector. We urge you to reconsider the agency's approach on both the 2014 Renewable Volume Obligation targets and pathway approval changes."

The Senators received a response from the EPA, which outlined that the EPA is making changes the agency believes will improve and streamline the petition process in ways that will benefit the renewable fuels industry.

#### Bringing Common Sense to Emission Regulations

Donnelly and Heitkamp led a group of seven senators in May to **express their deep concerns with the EPA-proposed New Source Performance Standard (NSPS) for carbon dioxide emissions from new affected fossil fuel-fired electric utility generating units**. The seven senators wrote to President Obama saying, in part:

"We are committed to improving air quality; however, the emission standards in the proposed rule are not based on technology that has been adequately demonstrated on a commercial scale...We urge you to reassess the proposal and consider the full implications of enacting the regulation in its current form...Understanding that affordable energy from coal will remain an important part of the world's economy, it is necessary for us to adopt the right policies and regulations that encourage long-term investment in further emissions reduction technologies and efficiencies."

The senators urged the Administration to evaluate more appropriate ways to regulate emissions in order to truly support the development of carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) and other clean coal technologies. They wrote that long-term thinking is essential to ensure that every U.S. citizen will have access to affordable and reliable energy while encouraging energy solutions that lower our carbon footprint. They called on the Administration to work with Congress to develop smart regulations to achieve this goal.

In December, **Joe and five other senators wrote the EPA to express concerns with a proposed rule to reduce carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from existing U.S. power plants**. The senators sent a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy voicing concerns with key provisions of the Clean Power Plan (CPP), which the senators believe must be addressed in order to give states more flexibility to create their own plans to best meet the 2030 CO<sub>2</sub> emissions goals. The senators expressed three concerns: one, the initial year 2020 reductions developed by EPA; two, the short timeframes for states to develop implementation plans; and three, the treatment of renewable electricity generation that crosses state lines.

Donnelly and the senators wrote, in part,

“We recognize that climate change is a significant global threat that requires serious action to be taken at both the national and international levels to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In order to best achieve these goals, however, changes must be made to the current proposal. Although numerous stakeholders have raised a wide range of issues that need to be addressed in the final rule, we are highlighting these three concerns as priorities to be addressed so that greater flexibility can be incorporated, thereby minimizing negative impacts on electric reliability and consumer rates across the country.”

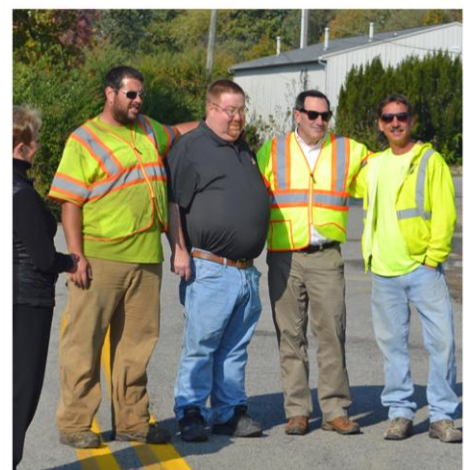
Given the scope of cross-state transactions that occur in the energy sector, the senators wrote that the 13 months the CPP gives states to develop their reduction plans does not take into account the full regional and national analysis required when multiple states set out to change key portions of their energy generating infrastructure. The group also wrote that the EPA’s plan does not account for renewable electricity generation that is located across state lines, making it difficult for states to account for renewable energy generation in their emission reduction plans.

### ***Investing in the Crossroads of America: Infrastructure***

#### **Highway Trust Fund**

Infrastructure funding is incredibly important for Indiana, which has 97,065 miles of road and 18,953 bridges. Despite infrastructure’s vital role in Indiana’s economy, a report by the American Society of Civil Engineers considers 17% of major roads to be in poor or mediocre condition and 22% of bridges as structurally deficient or functionally obsolete.

The Highway Trust Fund was established in 1956 and now primarily funds states’ transportation projects and the federal-aid highway program, including the interstate system and primary and secondary highway systems. Congress transferred funds into the Highway Trust Fund in 2008; however, the Transportation Department had stated that reserves would reach dangerously low levels by early August 2014. The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 continued the federal-aid highway program, highway safety programs, public transportation, and the hazardous materials transportation project. Without additional financing, 6,093 active highway projects in Indiana would have been stopped or delayed, and that could have put the 15,321 Hoosiers who work on these projects out of a job.



Joe and 78 of his Senate colleagues supported legislation in September that extended federal highway and transit programs through May 31, 2015. The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 allocates additional funds to the Highway Trust Fund and reauthorizes transportation policies to ensure that crucial infrastructure projects have the necessary resources to continue.

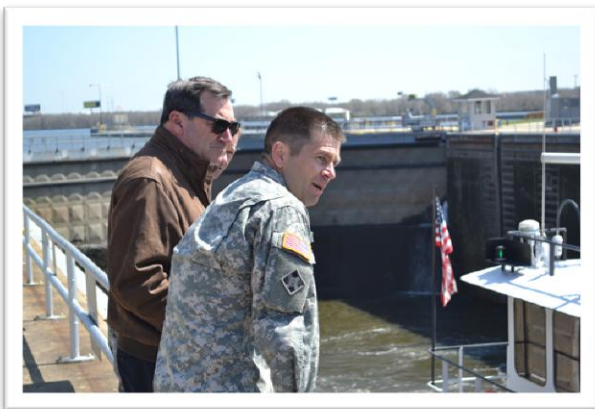


Joe said upon passage of the legislation, “Hoosiers rely on highways and roads every day, from going to work to taking their kids to school. By ensuring the Highway Trust Fund has sufficient resources for the next few months, we will help continue projects throughout Indiana and protect Hoosier jobs. Yet, it is frustrating that Congress again kicked the can down the road by passing a short-term patch when a long-term solution to address the aging infrastructure across Indiana and the country is desperately needed. This bill is a necessary first step, but Congress needs to do its job and put together a serious, long-term plan to support American highways, roads, and transit systems.”

The Highway and Transportation Funding Act of 2014 continued much-needed road repairs and highway upgrades in Indiana, since more than 40% of the state’s total highway and transit funding comes from the federal government.

### Asian Carp and the Great Lakes

Introduced to American waters more than 30 years ago, Asian carp have devastated rivers and lakes by out-competing native fish for food and disrupting natural ecosystems. There are currently electric dispersal barriers in the Chicago Sanitary and Ship Canal designed to prevent this invasive species from migrating into Lake Michigan. The Army Corps of Engineers is conducting the Great Lakes and Mississippi River Interbasin Study (GLMRIS) to evaluate other options for a comprehensive approach to prevent or reduce the spread of aquatic invasive species between the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basins. In January 2014, the Army Corps of Engineers released an interim GLMRIS report, which presented eight plans to prevent Asian carp from entering the Great Lakes.



In July, Donnelly and Mark Kirk (R-IL) led a bipartisan group of Great Lakes Senators in writing a letter to White House Council on Environmental Quality Asian Carp Director John Goss expressing their continued commitment to practical, immediate solutions to the threat of Asian carp and other invasive species to the Great Lakes and Mississippi River basin.

The Senators wrote, “While disagreements about prevention measures remain, the Asian carp threat persists, and urgent action is needed. The immediate path forward should include a set of short- and medium-term actions, which should be able to garner regional consensus more readily to strengthen protection for the Great Lakes...As the Asian Carp Director, we ask for your leadership to help guide a productive dialogue among all impacted stakeholders that includes a focus on practical, immediate solutions with broad support across all impacted stakeholders.”

The Great Lakes Senators also requested Director Goss’s assistance in urging the Chicago Area Waterway System Advisory Committee to make recommendations for short-, medium-, and long-term solutions to safeguard the Great Lakes from Asian carp and other invasive species as soon as possible.

On August 25, the Advisory Committee recommended that Congress fund efforts in FY15 to design a new engineered channel for the approach to the Brandon Road Lock; design, deploy, and evaluate new invasive species control technologies in the approach channel; and further research possible reconfiguring of locks in the Chicago Area Waterway System in a way that would allow continued barge traffic, but prevent the spread of invasive species.

The Army Corps announced in November 2014 that they intend to evaluate structural and nonstructural options and technologies near the Brandon Road Lock and Dam site as a control point to reduce the risk of upstream transfers of invasive species, while minimizing adverse impacts to waterway users and resources.

#### The North American Energy Infrastructure Act

In September, Donnelly joined Senator John Hoeven (R-ND) to introduce the *North American Energy Infrastructure Act*, bipartisan legislation that would help prevent lengthy delays to important energy infrastructure projects like the Keystone XL pipeline.

Joe said at the time, “A strong energy economy is an essential part of both Indiana’s and our country’s economic successes and critical to our national security. We need to streamline the process for approval of energy infrastructure projects, so that they are not subject to endless, unnecessary delays. I have long advocated for construction of the Keystone XL pipeline because it is in our economic and national security interests.”

The *North American Energy Infrastructure Act* would streamline decision making on cross-border permits by: eliminating the Presidential Permit requirement for projects crossing the national boundary between the United States and Canada or Mexico; establishing a 120-day time limit on the U.S. State Department to either issue a cross-border permit or deny approval if the project is not in the public interest of the United States, following completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process; and expediting natural gas pipeline permits to Canada or Mexico by requiring the Department of Energy to approve the permit within 30 days of receipt of a completed application.

#### Keystone XL Pipeline

On January 31, 2014, the U.S. State Department issued a final environmental impact statement for the Keystone XL oil pipeline. The document provided a technical assessment of the potential environmental impacts of the pipeline. The next step was for the Department of State to consult with various agencies to determine whether or not building the pipeline is in the national interest.

In April 2014, Joe sent a letter to President Obama along with 10 of his Senate colleagues, calling on the President to make a final decision no later than May 31, 2014, on the Keystone XL pipeline permit application.

Later that month, however, the President decided to indefinitely extend the government's review of the pipeline. As a longtime supporter of the Keystone XL pipeline, Joe and 55 of his Senate colleagues from both parties responded by introducing legislation that would approve the Keystone XL pipeline without a permit from President Obama in May 2014.

In November, the Senate took a vote on the Donnelly-supported legislation. Unfortunately, that bipartisan bill required 60 votes for passage and was defeated 59-41.

Joe said following the failed vote, “A strong energy economy is critical to both Indiana’s and our country’s economic success, and crucial to our national security. As a longtime supporter of the effort to authorize the Keystone XL pipeline, I am disappointed the Senate failed to pass this bipartisan legislation. The Keystone XL pipeline would promote economic competitiveness and energy security for our country, so I will continue working with Democrats and Republicans to push for approval of this commonsense project.”

## ***Keeping Indiana Competitive through Exports and Innovations***

### Export-Import Bank Reauthorization

The Export-Import (Ex-Im) Bank is the official export credit agency of the United States and assists in financing the export of American goods and services to international markets. Since 2010, the Ex-Im Bank has directly helped more than 90 Indiana companies export more than \$1 billion in goods and services overseas. In 2013 alone, the bank provided \$27 billion in export financing for U.S. companies, which in turn supported \$37 billion worth of exports and more than 200,000 American jobs. Further, since 1992, the bank has returned more than \$6 billion in profits to the Treasury Department, with \$1 billion of that total coming in 2013.

Given that bank’s importance to Indiana and our country’s economy, Joe helped introduce S. 2709, the *Export-Import Bank Reauthorization*, a five-year reauthorization.

Some opponents contended that the bank is a big-business handout; however, in 2013, approximately 90 percent of transactions were for small businesses, benefitting job creators and workers across the country. Today, nearly every other major country in the world has a credit export agency designed to support and create jobs, and most are larger and more aggressive than our Ex-Im Bank. Our global competitors, including China, Brazil and India, are investing more in export financing. Even our neighbor Canada is providing

“In Indiana, we pride ourselves on having common sense. It doesn’t get much more common sense than creating more American jobs in a fiscally responsible way, which is exactly what the Export-Import Bank does.”  
–Donnelly Op-Ed, The Hill, 7.7.14

nearly three times more in export financing than the U.S., and Canada’s economy is one-tenth the size of ours.

Joe said in the summer, “At a time when American companies often are competing in a game rigged by foreign currency manipulation, intellectual property theft and insurmountable regulatory barriers, unilaterally eliminating our export credit agency would further handcuff U.S. job creators while allowing competitors in foreign countries to capitalize.”

When discussing the importance of the Ex-Im Bank to Indiana companies, Joe cited the example of Jeco Plastic Products in Plainfield, Ind. The bank supported \$5 million worth of its export sales in recent years. That includes a contract with Volkswagen in Germany, which uses Jeco plastic pallets to move heavy automotive parts. Without the bank, Jeco



could lose the Volkswagen order, which is worth approximately \$80 million over the life of the contract. This is important not only to the business itself, but to its 35 employees and the families these jobs support.

On September 18, 2014, Joe joined 77 of his colleagues in passing a continuing resolution to both continue funding the federal government as well as reauthorize the Ex-Im Bank through June 30, 2015. Absent congressional action, the bank would have lost its authorization as of September 30, 2014.

#### International Threats to Domestic Steel Industry

Throughout the year, Joe advocated on behalf of the domestic steel industry to the U.S. Department of Commerce and International Trade Commission (ITC) regarding unfair trade. The domestic steel industry sought duties on unfairly traded imports of oil country tubular goods (OCTG) from several countries, including South Korea. To assess a duty, or tariff, on unfairly traded goods, the Department of Commerce must determine that such imports are sold at less than fair value and the U.S. International Trade Commission must find that such imports injure a domestic industry.

First, in May, Joe and a bipartisan group of 56 other Senators sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker expressing concerns with the Department's preliminary determination that did not find Korean OCTG producers engaging in unfair dumping practices in the United States. In the letter, the Senators described the negative impact the Department's ruling, if finalized, would have on the nearly 8,000 workers employed in the American OCTG production industry, along with the thousands of other jobs in the supply chain. The Senators asked the Department to further analyze the information provided by the Korean producers regarding profits and cost of production to ensure unfair trade practices were not taking place.

In July, Joe welcomed the U.S. Department of Commerce's ruling that Korean producers of OCTG had been selling OCTG at less than fair value in the United States. Domestic producers of OCTG have argued such practices negatively impact the American steel industry by undercutting their prices, potentially driving them out of business and leaving American workers without jobs. After the Department of Commerce ruling, the ITC had to find that these imports injure the domestic industry, so Joe wrote to the ITC encouraging them to uphold the Department of Commerce's ruling.

In August, Joe applauded the ITC's final vote to assess duties on unfairly traded imports of OCTG that materially injure the domestic steel industry.

Donnelly said at the time, "I am glad to see the International Trade Commission standing up for the American manufacturing industry and the Hoosier steel community in this final decision. Their ruling reinforces what I have been saying from the start—that American workers deserve a level playing field on which to compete. I will continue working with my partners in Indiana and my colleagues in Congress to protect American jobs from unfair trade practices."

With this final approval from the ITC, additional duties were imposed on the OCTG producers, preventing them from further undermining the U.S. and Indiana steel industry and the thousands of jobs that could have been threatened.

### **Farm Bill Passage and Implementation**

Agriculture continues to play a vital role in Indiana's economy, creating and supporting tens of thousands of good-paying Hoosier jobs. Joe is proud to continue serving on the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee and supporting the Indiana agricultural community and the jobs they help create. He was especially honored to be named a "Friend of Farm Bureau" again in 2014 by the American Farm Bureau Federation.

"Donnelly says the new version of the bill is strong in two important areas - a greater shift toward crop insurance and a greater focus on conservation. The Democrat says past farm bills relied heavily on direct payments to farmers, while the new bill does away with them almost entirely. And he says that's better for both taxpayers and farmers...Donnelly says the farm bill also provides more funding for programs that promote conservation. He pointed to more support for cover crops, which helps keep nutrients in the field and out of the water supply." -Indiana Public Media, 8.12.14

In January, the House and Senate reached a compromise on a five-year farm bill—finally bringing years of negotiations to a close. On February 7, 2014, the President signed the farm bill into law, which included several provisions Joe advocated for that are beneficial to Indiana.

Included in the law is a provision Donnelly introduced with Senator Pat Roberts (R-KS), which allows the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program to offer a basic level of crop insurance coverage to farmers producing crops as feedstocks for the next generation of advanced biofuels and bio-based products. Additionally, Joe advocated for several other provisions important to Hoosiers, including:

- Improving the process of setting conservation technical assistance funding levels by giving USDA direct authority, not the Office of Management and Budget;
- Establishing a pilot program to allow canned or frozen fruits and vegetables to participate in school snack programs;
- Protecting full planting flexibility by eliminating any permanent base reduction for planting fruits or vegetables; and
- Prohibiting the EPA from requiring Clean Water Act permits for storm water runoff

associated with timber harvesting, nursery operations, pest control, reforestation and logging road use, construction and maintenance.

"At the end of the day, supporting Hoosier agriculture is about backing Indiana communities. From the food they provide our families to the jobs they help create, Hoosier farmers are helping to keep Indiana strong. The final passage of the five-year farm bill is just the beginning. I look forward to working with our Hoosier ag communities in the years ahead. I'm the hired help, and I work for you."  
-Donnelly Op-Ed, Rochester Sentinel, 2.7.14

Joe is pleased Hoosier farmers finally got what they deserve: some certainty and an opportunity to reap the rewards of their hard work, while

knowing there is a safety net in the event of natural disasters and other events outside of their control.

After fighting for passage of the farm bill, Joe refocused his efforts to ensure that the legislation is implemented effectively and that the Indiana agriculture community knows exactly what programs are impacted and how it could affect them.



To this end, Joe traveled the state this summer to meet with Indiana farms and production facilities, talk about the farm bill and listen to feedback from Hoosiers. Joe toured Scott Farms in Pierceton to see how their use of cover crops and other conservation practices are impacting local water quality. He visited Fair Oaks Farms in Jasper County to learn about their eco-friendly, high-tech farming techniques. He also made stops to Elanco, a global producer of agricultural and animal health products headquartered in Greenfield; Beck's Hybrids, the largest family-

owned, retail seed company in the United States; Farbest Foods in Vincennes, one of the largest turkey producers in the U.S.; the Hoosier Harvest Market in Greenfield, a hub of local food producers, and several agriculture-heavy areas in Southern Indiana during his Ohio River Tour in August.

"Donnelly's office released a report that says about 150,000 Indiana residents work in agricultural jobs and contribute more than \$30 billion in economic activity to Indiana annually. Donnelly worked on the Senate Committee on Agriculture to get a farm bill passed, including an amendment to improve crop insurance."  
-Rochester Sentinel, 1.16.14



# SERVING THOSE WHO SERVE US

## **Preventing Military Suicide: The Jacob Sexton Act of 2014 is Now Law**

“Donnelly’s commitment to preventing suicide among military members — and his hard work in support of those who serve in general — has been unwavering.”  
—South Bend Tribune Editorial, 12.24.14

After two years of working to combat the scourge of military suicide through his work on the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee, Joe’s bipartisan Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act is now law. This landmark legislation passed the House and the Senate as part of the National Defense Authorization Act in December 2014 and was then signed into law by the President. Under the new law, the military will now require an annual mental health assessment for all servicemembers to help identify challenges before it is too late.

“This is a bill that needs to be passed – for Jacob Sexton and his grieving family, for all those who serve now and have served, and for all of us who are grateful to them.”  
—Fort Wayne Journal-Gazette Editorial, 5.12.14

The Sexton Act will:

- Require annual mental health assessments for all servicemembers—Active, Reserve, and Guard. Right now, the most effective mental health screening is available for those who are preparing for or returning from deployment, despite research showing the majority of military suicides occur among servicemembers who have never deployed. The Sexton Act ensures that members of the Active, Guard and Reserve components benefit from best practices across all the services, regardless of their deployment status.
- Maintain strong privacy protections for servicemembers. We must ensure that seeking help remains a sign of strength by protecting the privacy of the servicemember coming forward. The privacy of servicemembers would be ensured by maintaining strong medical privacy protections for these mental health assessments.
- Require a Pentagon report to evaluate existing military mental health practices and provide recommendations for improvement. This report, which is due to Congress within a year of enactment of the bill, would help identify which programs are working and which need to be fixed. A specific focus of the report will be identifying successful peer-to-peer programs that address the need for a more bottom-up approach to identifying warning signs and combatting stigma in each of the services, with the intention of future expansion.

For two straight years, we have seen more military suicide deaths than combat fatalities in our Armed Forces, according to the Department of Defense. In 2012, 522 men and women in uniform took their own lives while we lost 316 in combat. In 2013, we lost a record number in the National Guard and 474 servicemembers overall, more than three times the number killed in combat. In just the first six months of 2014, 224 servicemembers took their own lives.

“And, so, in what many have labeled one of the least productive congressional sessions in history, Donnelly ended the 2014 session with a significant first-term legislative victory. It’s significant because it could help a lot of people and because of what it symbolizes. The legislation is named after an Indiana National Guard member named Jacob Sexton, a 21-year-old who committed suicide in Muncie in 2009. It seeks to give soldiers and veterans more support and encouragement in their darkest days and to proactively identify looming crises. It comes amid a flurry of reports detailing a disturbing and heartbreaking increase in suicides among service members current and former.” –Matt Tully in the Indianapolis Star, 12.22.14

Among the servicemembers lost to suicide in recent years was Hoosier Jacob Sexton. After graduating high school, Jacob Sexton, a native of Farmland, Indiana, joined the Indiana Army National Guard and served tours in Iraq and Afghanistan. While home on a 15-day leave from Afghanistan, Jacob shot and killed himself at a movie theater in Muncie, Indiana, on October 12, 2009. He was laid to rest with full military honors, survived by his three brothers and his parents. Jacob was only 21 years old.

Over the past two years, Joe worked with Jacob’s parents, Jeff and Barb Sexton, to help address the scourge of military suicide.



*Jeff Sexton and Joe discussed the Sexton Act being signed into law on Taking the Hill on MSNBC.*

“When Donnelly prepared to attend President Barack Obama’s State of the Union address this year, he gave his only guest ticket to Jeff Sexton, Jacob Sexton’s father. That’s how much Donnelly cares about the problem of military suicides — an issue everyone should find deeply disturbing. With the high rate of military suicides, providing additional mental health assistance is the least we can do to support our troops. This bill must become law.” –NWI Times Editorial, 5.15.14

While Joe acknowledges that we may never fully understand the invisible wounds or internal battles that lead to a particular servicemember taking his or her own life, he believes more can be done to help identify warning signs. From the command level down to individual soldiers, from military families to their friends and neighbors, there are commonsense steps that can be taken now to make meaningful progress.



*Joe receives an award from the National Suicide Prevention Foundation*

After the President signed the national defense bill including the Sexton Act, Joe said, “We honor the memory of a young man who was taken from us too soon. In remembering Jacob, we seek to prevent another servicemember’s family from experiencing the tragedy of suicide. I have worked alongside Jacob’s parents, Jeff and Barb, for two years now, and their strength continues to inspire my work. Starting next year, every servicemember—Active Duty, Guard, or Reserve—will receive an annual mental health

assessment. Also, we will evaluate which prevention or intervention programs are working in hopes of future expansion. I am grateful for the support of many individuals who and organizations that stood with me throughout this effort, but most of all for Jeff and Barb, who continue to share their story to help prevent future tragedies.”

Jeff Sexton said, “The day they passed the bill would have been Jacob’s 27th birthday. And I can’t think of a better birthday present for him or a better Christmas present for all the men and women and their families in the military that suffer every day from PTSD, head injuries, any kind of mental illness. And hopefully this may change the stigma and bring out the help that our men and women need.”

“Not to get carried away, but the legislation’s success is a sign that, even in Washington and even in this toxic political era, things can get done. To get this done, Donnelly teamed up with a Republican, Roger Wicker of Mississippi. And he worked methodically to build support from a vast array of sources: military and health organizations, Democrats and Republicans, and veterans and family members of those serving.” –Matt Tully in the Indianapolis Star, 12.22.14

### ***Timeline of the Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act***

In April 2013, Joe introduced his first bill in the U.S. Senate, the *Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2013*. In June 2013, Joe successfully passed in the Senate Armed Services Committee a requirement for the DoD to report on the tools that would be implemented in the *Sexton Act of 2013* as a part of the FY 14 NDAA. In March of 2014, Joe receives the DoD report on the *Sexton Act of 2013* provisions.

Using that feedback and from other supportive organizations and servicemembers themselves, on May 7, 2014, Donnelly introduced the bipartisan Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2014 with Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS). The Sexton Act of 2014



was put together as an update to the *Sexton Act of 2013* after receiving feedback from DoD, servicemembers, and mental health care providers and would ensure that mental health is evaluated regularly and as a central element of a servicemember's overall readiness.

"There is not one solution, there's no cure-all to prevent suicide. But this problem is not too big to solve. We can start by improving our methods of identifying risk factors before it is too late," Joe said in a May video message announcing an update on his efforts to prevent military suicide.

The Sexton Act received the endorsement of more than 10 national organizations—including the National Guard Association of the United States, the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, and the Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America.



*Joe discussed the importance of the Sexton Act on Morning Joe.*

In May 2014, the Sexton Act cleared a major hurdle by passing in the Senate Armed Services Committee as part of the Fiscal Year 2015 NDAA.

In September 2014, to recognize Suicide Prevention Month, Joe spoke on the floor of the U.S. Senate, calling for action to address military suicide.

"Combatting suicide, both in our military and elsewhere, is an issue that continues to demand Congress' attention. We must continually reevaluate what we're doing, take a second and third look at the resources we're offering, and ask ourselves every day, 'Can we do better? Is there more we can do before it's too late?' The answer more often than not, is 'Yes.'"

"...I hope all of our servicemembers struggling with mental health concerns and with challenges know we're there for them and that we're working nonstop to ensure that they receive the care and support they deserve."

In December 2014, the House and Senate passed and President Obama signed into law the FY 2015 NDAA and with it, the Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2014.

## ***Promoting PTSD Awareness***

As part of his commitment to raising awareness about the invisible wounds of war, Joe co-sponsored and helped pass a bipartisan resolution designating June as National Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Awareness Month. This designation sought to help increase awareness of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and related health risks, while also seeking to reduce the stigma associated with PTSD.

Joe said, "It's critical that we not only continue to talk about the mental health challenges facing servicemembers and veterans, but take action to respond to those who are suffering from the invisible wounds of war...We must keep educating the public as well as servicemembers, veterans and their families about the causes, symptoms and treatment of PTSD."

## **National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial Authorization Signed Into Law**

Working with Hoosier native Scott Stump and Senator John Boozman (R-AR), Donnelly introduced legislation to authorize a Gulf War Memorial. In December, the House and Senate passed Donnelly and Boozman's bipartisan legislation as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. President Obama then signed into law their bill to authorize the construction of the first official National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial in our nation's capital to honor American servicemembers who fought during Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield.

As with all memorials on federal property, Congress had to formally authorize the land within Washington, D.C. to be used for the site. No federal funds will be used for the construction of the memorial. Rather, private funds will be raised by the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association.

Joe said, "For the thousands of Hoosiers and for all Americans who served in Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield, this memorial will honor their courageous service and sacrifice. I look forward to the day when our Desert Storm and Desert Shield veterans can visit their memorial."

Stump, President of the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association, said, "The passage of the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act leaves us honored, humbled, and thankful to Senators Boozman and Donnelly for their hard work and bipartisan efforts throughout this entire process. We look forward to creating a place of honor and remembrance for all who served. Most importantly, this memorial is dedicated to our fellow Desert Shield and Desert Storm veterans who gave their lives on behalf of every American."

A native of Clay Township in St. Joseph County, Indiana, Stump attended Indiana State University and served as a Lance Corporal in the Marine Corps during Operations Desert Storm and Shield. In 2011, Stump had an idea to honor those he served with overseas. He joined with two of his fellow servicemembers to co-found an organization in Arkansas which became the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association. Over the past few

years, Stump and the organization have advocated for an Operation Desert Storm and Desert Shield memorial and raised money for its construction.

More than 700,000 American servicemembers were deployed and nearly 400 lost their lives during the first Gulf War. These servicemembers fought with the support of more than 30 other coalition countries to liberate the citizens of Kuwait from more than seven months of invasion and occupation by Iraqi forces. This legislation will allow the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association to create a commemorative work in Washington, D.C. to honor those who served.

Servicemembers, veterans, members of the international allied coalition, as well as veterans' organizations including AMVETS and the American Legion, endorsed the creation of the memorial.

### **Reforming the VA to Better Serve Hoosier Veterans**

Following widespread reports of scheduling manipulation and wrongdoings at multiple VA facilities in the spring of 2014, the VA Office of Inspector General (OIG) initiated investigations at dozens of VA facilities, and the VA conducted an internal audit of all its health facilities to identify

further instances of poor performance or misconduct.

Reports from these investigations showed widespread and systemic misconduct at facilities across

the country. These same reports also identified a number of challenges, ranging from outdated technology and physician shortages to insufficient capacity, which limit veterans' access to quality health care.

"Coats and Donnelly are to be commended for working together to gauge the scope of the challenge for veterans' care in the state. Donnelly and Republican U.S. Rep. Marlin Stutzman also have been working together to keep the spotlight on the VA hospital here." –Fort Wayne Journal Gazette Editorial, 6.6.14

Finding this news unacceptable and wanting to hold accountable those responsible, Donnelly and fellow U.S. Senator from Indiana Dan Coats began pressing VA leadership for information on Indiana facilities.

**Donnelly and Coats sent a letter to then-VA Secretary Eric Shinseki on May 20, 2014**, that outlined their concerns and requested the VA conduct a review of Indiana VA facilities to ensure Hoosiers were not subject to manipulated wait times or other systemic attempts that could have led to unnecessary suffering.

Donnelly and Coats wrote, "On behalf of nearly 500,000 Hoosier veterans, we ask that you immediately verify whether any Indiana facilities within the VA Health Care System took similar actions to manipulate wait times and deceive veterans, Congress, and the public. We ask that you promptly report any findings related to Indiana facilities and identify an immediate course of action to resolve any issues uncovered."

Donnelly and Coats said they strongly supported the efforts of both Congress and the VA Inspector General to investigate the reports of unjustifiable wait times at numerous VA

facilities around the country that have resulted in suffering among an untold number of veterans.

“We expect decisive action to fix this problem at the source and ensure that our nation’s veterans are never again subjected to such gross mistreatment,” Donnelly and Coats concluded.



After Secretary Shinseki resigned, **Donnelly and Coats sent a letter to Acting Secretary Gibson on June 5, 2014.** They wrote,

“We are troubled by new feedback and the latest news reports that have highlighted concerns about long wait times at VA facilities in Indiana. We have a responsibility to our Hoosier veterans and all Americans to be transparent about what has gone wrong...It is critical that we receive a complete and timely assessment of Indiana’s VA facilities so that Congress and the VA can take decisive, well-informed action to fix any problems at their source.”

**In mid-July, Joe met with VA Secretary nominee Robert McDonald, a Gary, Indiana native and an Army veteran.** Joe noted his frustration that despite roughly two months of requests, he was still waiting on information as to why three facilities in Indiana were “red-flagged” in the VA audit. Finally, the VA announced congressional briefings for late July. In late July, Joe voted to confirm McDonald along with 96 other senators from both parties.

Joe said of McDonald’s confirmation, “I recently met with Bob McDonald, a fellow Hoosier, and today I voted to confirm him as the new VA Secretary. In our meeting I expressed to him the importance of ensuring our Hoosier veterans receive timely access to the quality care they deserve. We discussed in detail the recent misconduct and unacceptable wait times at numerous VA facilities and the health care needs of Hoosier veterans. I also made clear my frustration with the VA’s persistent delays in supplying information on VA facilities in Indiana and across the country. There is no question the VA is in need of fresh leadership, smarter policies, and the very best resources we can provide. I support Secretary McDonald’s plans for reform and culture change within the VA, and I will continue working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to give him the tools he needs to succeed...We have an obligation to support all our American servicemembers both on the battlefield and after they return home, and we must deliver on that promise.”



"Meeting the health care needs of current and former service members is obligatory, U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly said Monday. The Indiana Democrat, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, was in Greater Lafayette to attend Memorial Day ceremonies. The Department of Veterans Affairs is embroiled in controversy amid questions about high-quality and timely treatment for the nearly 9 million veterans who rely on it. Donnelly vowed to back corrective measures to address problems in VA hospitals, if investigators substantiate the allegations. 'We'll move heaven and earth to make sure that veterans receive the care they deserve,' he said." –Lafayette Journal & Courier, 5.26.14

**On July 30, 2014, Joe received information from the Veterans Administration regarding each of the five Veterans Integrated Service Networks (VISN) that oversee health care facilities in Indiana.** Indiana's VA health care facilities lie within VISNs 9, 10, 11, 12, and 15. In the briefings, Joe received information on the issues at VA health facilities across the country, including hospitals and community-based outpatient clinics (CBOC) in Indiana. If audit teams expressed any concern regarding misconduct or improper procedures following their evaluation of a facility, the facility was red-flagged for further review. Flagged facilities in Indiana include the Roudebush Indianapolis VAMC, Richmond CBOC, and Adam Benjamin, Jr. Crown Point CBOC. All sites "red-flagged" were referred to the Office of Inspector General for further review.

Moving forward, Donnelly was informed that the VA is collecting and monitoring scheduling data from all facilities in a new data mining effort to look for concerning patterns at any facility that may trigger reviews. The VA will also be contracting with an independent entity to do performance reviews of individual facilities that will certify to the VA Secretary that they are operating effectively. Additionally, the VA is training staff to re-emphasize understanding of proper scheduling processes and the correct use of scheduling tools. They told Donnelly that 13,000 staff have received this training thus far.

Joe said of the briefings, "Revelations over the past several months have made it clear that there is a systemic, bureaucratic mess in the VA's health care system. This mess will not be easy to clean up, but the audit gives us valuable information about the places and problems that need our most immediate attention. The VA audit identified a number of issues ranging from problems with scheduling policies and software to areas facing significant provider shortages...There is still a great deal of work to do, and I am committed to continuing to work with the VA and my colleagues in the Senate to ensure our veterans are receiving the quality, accessible health care they have earned."



**On August 1, 2014, Joe joined 90 of his colleagues from both sides of the aisle to pass bipartisan legislation** aimed at helping reduce wait times at VA health care facilities, improving access to health care for veterans, and increasing accountability at the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014, a bipartisan House-Senate compromise, passed the Senate by a vote of 91-3.

The Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act has many provisions that seek to reform the VA in the wake of recently identified misconduct and unacceptable wait times at numerous VA facilities. It will:

- **Enable Veterans to Access Care Outside the VA:** If veterans are unable to get a VA appointment within 30 days or live more than 40 miles from a VA health facility, they will be able to access care through non-VA providers using a new Veterans Choice Card.
- **Increase the Number of VA Health Providers:** The VA will have special authority to quickly hire doctors and other medical staff in occupations facing the most critical shortages.
- **Give VA the Authority to Fire or Demote Agency Officials:** It will be easier for the VA to fire or demote senior VA officials based on poor job performance or misconduct.
- **Institute Smarter Performance Metrics:** With input from the Inspector General and independent reviews, the VA will be required to eliminate performance metrics that incentivize bad behavior, ensuring that job performance is measured by the quality of care veterans receive.
- **Require Independent Reviews of VA Health Care:** The President will be required to create a Commission on Access to Care to examine how best to structure the Veterans Health Administration, locate health resources and deliver care to veterans, and the commission will be required to send recommendations to Congress. Further, an independent third party will separately assess the process for scheduling appointments for veterans, and a separate task force will review VA's scheduling software and make recommendations for improvements.
- **Improve Transparency Concerning VA Wait Times:** The VA Secretary will be required to publish wait-time goals for scheduling an appointment at VA facilities for each medical center, and the VA will be required to publish online the current wait times for appointments for each primary and specialty care VA medical center.

### ***Continuing to Improve the Fort Wayne VA Medical Center***

In October, Donnelly joined U.S. Representative Marlin Stutzman (IN-03) at a press conference announcing the reopening of the Fort Wayne VA Medical Center's ICU services. This announcement followed two years of work by Donnelly and Stutzman to get to the bottom of the 2012 suspension of inpatient services at the ICU and Acute Medical Unit at the Fort Wayne VA Medical Center.

- **In November 2012, Donnelly and Stutzman expressed concern about the level of care that was being provided at the facility and requested that the VA OIG undertake an investigation** regarding the decision made by Veteran Integrated Service Network 11 leadership to suspend inpatient services at the ICU and Acute Medical Unit.

- **In August 2013, Donnelly and Stutzman received an initial VA OIG report on the suspension of inpatient care at the Fort Wayne campus of the VA.** Joe stated that the findings were completely unacceptable and called upon the Veterans Health Administration and Fort Wayne VA hospital to get to work immediately to implement the recommendations of the Inspector General to ensure that those conditions and actions never happen again.
- **In August 2014, Joe received another report from the VA OIG that summarized the Fort Wayne VA Medical Center's progress toward improving the level of care** provided to Hoosier veterans and in their effort to reopen inpatient services. Joe was encouraged that the VA OIG reported meaningful progress to improve the level of care given to Hoosier veterans at the Fort Wayne VA hospital over the past year. Joe thanked the leaders of the hospital and the medical staff for their dedication to making this right and providing the quality health care that our veterans have earned.

**Finally, in October 2014, Donnelly and Stutzman were able to mark the re-opening of the ICU—the final phase in restoring inpatient services for local veterans.** Joe cited the many improvements and meaningful progress since the ICU closed two years ago and his hopes that Hoosier veterans in northern Indiana will now have access to the health care they deserve.

## **Improving Servicemembers' Transition Home**

### ***Servicemember Transition Meetings***

Over the past several years, thousands of Hoosier servicemen and women have returned home from Iraq and Afghanistan. In order to better respond to the needs of our recent veterans, this year, Joe sought to highlight the transition assistance programs available to servicemembers and military families through a series of meetings in Indiana and Washington, D.C. Joe and his staff used these meetings to assess best practices, lessons

*"As the U.S. continues to close military bases across Afghanistan and send troops home, Sen. Joe Donnelly, D-Indiana, hopes to provide a smoother transition back to civilian life for them and their families. Donnelly, a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, visited Purdue University on Monday to talk about ways the university can assist that transition and to learn about research aimed at helping military families." –Lafayette Journal & Courier, 4.15.14*

learned, and gaps in services in order to ensure that Hoosier servicemembers have the support they need to transition back to civilian life.

During meetings in April with the Indiana National Guard, Purdue University's Military Family Research Institute (MFRI), and Fort Wayne Veterans Center, Joe heard about programs for separating servicemembers as well as the most significant challenges facing our heroes and their families. The challenges that servicemembers and their families face often include issues related to: mental health, access to health care, employment, education, and family support services.

The Indiana National Guard in Indianapolis provided Joe an update on its transition services such as the J-9 Directorate, which oversees all joint and family services activities

within Indiana, including family programs, employer support, and the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Program.

At Purdue's MFRI, officials and university staff briefed Joe on the Institute's efforts to improve the lives of servicemembers and their families and noted the challenges that children of servicemembers can face as their parents transition from military service to civilian life.

Joe also visited the Fort Wayne Veterans Center to learn how these community-based and mobile centers can help support and serve transitioning servicemembers and their families. The Fort Wayne

"Donnelly said he hears frequently from servicemen and -women that they are worried about obtaining gainful employment after returning home. He said a moment from a trip he took to Afghanistan's Khost province a few years ago, when he met with the Indiana National Guard's 119th Agribusiness Development Team, sticks out to him. 'I met with them in a very dangerous place and I said "What's the most important thing I can do for you?" And I figured they'd say, "We need a new Humvee or new vests,"' Donnelly said. They said, "We've got this figured out. We just need a job when we get home." We need to help them transition with jobs, with mental health and with their families.'" -Lafayette Journal & Courier, 4.15.14

Veterans Center is an extension of the VA Medical Center, and there are other similar centers in Evansville, Gary, Indianapolis, and South Bend. These centers are staffed by combat veterans who have been trained to assist veterans and their families with PTSD, marriage and employment counseling, as well as crisis support.

In addition to Joe's meetings in Indiana, his staff in Washington, D.C. met with each of the military services as well as various organizations that serve transitioning servicemembers and veterans. The goal of these meetings was to better understand existing services and to see where there may be opportunities for federal support and/or better coordination.

### ***Coming Home: Screening and Discussion of Servicemember Transition***

Continuing his focus on servicemembers' transition, Joe and Indianapolis PBS affiliate WFYI hosted a screening of part one of the documentary series, "Coming Back with Wes Moore" in September. The event featured a screening and discussion about the challenges facing servicemembers as they reintegrate back into civilian life, including coping with post-traumatic stress. Hoosiers, veterans, and organizations that assist veterans attended the event, which was free and open to the public.

After the event Joe said, "One of my top priorities is supporting our servicemembers and our veterans. For some of our servicemembers, the transition back into civilian life is smooth, and for others it can be challenging. The obstacles and dangers for some of our servicemembers do not always vanish once they return home. That is why we must ensure that all the men and women who sacrificed for our country have the support they deserve when they return home, including access to resources that will ease their transition. I am grateful that WFYI partnered with our office for this event and discussion focused on our returning Hoosier servicemembers."



Lloyd Wright, president and CEO of WFYI, said, “It was an honor for WFYI to host Senator Donnelly, along with many veterans and community members for this important conversation and film screening. By sharing the stories of our veterans and connecting members of the community with one another, WFYI is proud to play a role in strengthening our central Indiana communities, while making a lasting impact on the vibrancy and vitality of Indiana. We applaud the Senator for his efforts.”

### ***Petraeus Events on Financial Literacy***

Those who serve in the Armed Forces can experience a wide range of physical and psychological challenges as they transition from active duty to civilian life. In addition, the Department of Defense has found that factors unrelated to deployment or combat, such as financial issues, are a leading factor causing physical and emotional stress.

That is why Joe hosted Holly Petraeus of the Office of Servicemember Affairs at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller for two roundtable discussions on financial protections for members of the Indiana National Guard, active military and reserves; Hoosier veterans; and their families. Participants at each roundtable discussion talked about the financial issues facing servicemen and women as well as the services and support available.

“U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly brought Holly Petraeus – who advocates for service members – to Indianapolis to tell members of the Indiana National Guard they are not alone as they face financial challenges in their lives. The pair met with groups of veteran service officers, local citizens, and with military members who are having financial challenges. Then Donnelly, D-Indiana, and Petraeus, director of the Office of Service Member Affairs at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, said the goal is to make sure military members are not being taken advantage of and are getting a good deal.” –The Statehouse File, 7.1.14

During a press conference with Petraeus, Donnelly said, “We are here to let every servicemember from Indiana know that you are not alone...If you are looking up today and say ‘it almost seems overwhelming the financial challenges I face,’ we are here for you.”

At the first roundtable, Donnelly, Petraeus, and Zoeller met with Indiana National Guard leaders at Tyndall Armory and learned about their efforts to protect servicemembers from predatory practices and discussed ways to better inform Guard members of the existing resources on the state and federal levels. At the second roundtable, they heard from individuals who interact with servicemembers, work in the financial industry, or provide education and other resources. During this roundtable, they talked about efforts to assist members of the military, veterans, and their families as they navigate mortgages, benefits, GI Bill assistance, and other financial issues.

Joe said, “Indiana’s servicemen and women make tremendous sacrifices for our state and country. Yet despite their honorable service, our servicemembers and their families often find themselves faced with significant financial challenges and, sadly, are often targets of predatory practices and financial exploitation. I thank Ms. Petraeus and Attorney General Zoeller for their efforts to help members of the Guard, active military and reserves,

veterans, and their families understand their unique financial situations and to educate them about the many predatory practices that unfortunately exist around the country.”

Petraeus said she was, “pleased to join Senator Donnelly and Attorney General Zoeller to hear firsthand from Indiana National Guard members, Hoosier veterans, and community leaders about their consumer financial issues. I appreciate their input and suggestions, and will be mindful of what I heard in Indiana as I pursue my efforts at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.”

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, one of Joe’s top priorities is preventing military suicide. The Department of Defense’s Suicide Prevention Office found in research that financial issues, among other stresses, can lead a servicemember to attempt suicide. Joe wanted to make sure that servicemembers are aware of the support and services available, including the Office of Servicemember Affairs at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

The Office of Servicemember Affairs was established along with the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau under the Dodd-Frank Act. The office is responsible for developing and implementing initiatives to educate and empower servicemembers regarding consumer financial products as well as monitoring military complaints about consumer financial services.

### **Addressing Military Sexual Assault**

In April 2014, the DoD’s Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office released its annual report for fiscal year 2013, which found a 50 percent increase in reports of alleged sexual assault compared to fiscal year 2012, including increases in all four Military Services.

As a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Joe is working to improve the military’s efforts to prevent sexual assault and bring justice to survivors. He believes more needs to be done for survivors of sexual assault, especially in providing a safe and confidential place to go for help.

In March, Joe helped pass the bipartisan *Victims Protection Act* that aims to better address the epidemic of sexual assault in the military. The legislation, which passed by a vote of 97 to 0, would expand reforms to better empower survivors of military sexual assault and hold commanders accountable. The House did not consider the bill in 2014.

Joe said, “I have met with and heard from courageous survivors of military sexual assault from Indiana, and their heartbreaking stories made it crystal clear to me that we must do more to address this epidemic.” He called the bill an important step forward to empower survivors of military sexual assault and hold commanders and perpetrators accountable.

Overall, Joe thinks we must make further changes to the status quo in order to lead to a truly “zero tolerance” policy; however, he recognized the *Victims Protection Act* as important progress in the effort to end the crisis of military sexual assault.

Provisions in the legislation include:

- **Further review of sexual assault cases not referred to trial.** The legislation would require further review by military prosecutors on sexual assault cases not referred to trial by the chain of command.
- **More resources available to survivors of sexual assault.** Resources, ranging from health support to legal services, would be expanded. For example, more counseling services would be available to survivors of sexual assault. Additionally, the bill expands the availability of legal counsel for sexual assault survivors so they know the advantages and disadvantages of prosecuting their cases by court-martial or civilian court.
- **Eliminate the “good soldier” defense.** The “good soldier” defense allowed commanders to use length of service and good conduct in proceedings even if unrelated to the case. Under the *Victims Protection Act*, the alleged perpetrator’s defense could only use good military character if it is directly relevant to the crime of which the perpetrator is accused.
- **Promote a culture that emphasizes sexual assault prevention and response programs.** The military would have to ensure that performance appraisals for all servicemembers include an assessment of their support for sexual assault prevention and response programs. In addition, commanding officers would be subject to an additional review measuring whether they have established an environment in which sexual assault allegations are fairly managed and evaluated, and if victims can report sexual assault or criminal activity without fear of retaliation.

In addition to voting for the *Victims Protection Act*, Joe supported the *Military Justice Improvement Act*, which failed on a procedural vote. In 2013, Joe co-sponsored legislation similar to the *Military Justice Improvement Act*, which would have removed decision-making on whether to prosecute a sexual assault case from the chain of command.

### **Visiting Normandy for the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day**

Joe commemorated the 70th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy, France as part of a bipartisan congressional delegation in June. In honor of the hundreds of thousands of Hoosiers who served in World War II and thousands of Hoosier sons and daughters who paid the ultimate sacrifice, Joe attended two memorial ceremonies.

First, he visited the Normandy American Cemetery at Omaha Beach. Omaha Beach served as one of the five sectors of the Allied invasion of Nazi-occupied France. Success at

“U.S. Sen. Joe Donnelly honored veterans and fallen soldiers by walking on the beaches they stormed 70 years ago on Saturday. The Democrat flew to Caen, France, on June 5. The next day, he traveled to Pointe du Hoc, then to Omaha Beach before stopping for a ceremony involving France and the United States at the Normandy American Cemetery. There are more than 9,000 Americans buried in the cemetery, including 274 Hoosiers, Donnelly said. Throughout the war, 400,000 Hoosiers fought and 12,000 Americans lost their lives, he said.” –The Statehouse File, 6.9.14

Omaha Beach was critical to the mission and Allied operations in Europe. A total of 43,250 infantry participated in the assault at Omaha and 274 Hoosiers from World War II are buried in this cemetery.

The official French-sponsored International Ceremony took place at Sword Beach in Oustreham. Sword Beach was the eastern-most landing site of the Allied assault on D-Day. More than 29,000 allied troops landed at Sword Beach, resulting in nearly 650 casualties. President Obama, as well as world leaders such as French president Francois Hollande, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Queen Elizabeth of England, British Prime Minister David Cameron, and newly elected Ukrainian president Petro Poroshenko, also attended the service.

Joe said, "On this 70th anniversary of D-Day, we pay tribute to all the men who courageously stormed the beaches of Normandy, turning the tide in World War II. We must always remember the extraordinary sacrifices they made, including the contributions of our Hoosier heroes. We continue to honor those who are still with us today, and those we have lost. It is a great privilege to bring the prayers and good wishes of the people of Indiana to Normandy as we commemorate D-Day on behalf of World War II veterans everywhere."

Hoosiers played a significant role in World War II. The Riverfront in Evansville was transformed into a 45-acre shipyard to produce Landing Ship Tanks (LST) during the War. These large amphibious craft could carry significant quantities of vehicles, cargo, and troops directly onto an unimproved shore, and Riverfront produced 167 LSTs and 35 other vessels. Specifically, the USS LST 325 participated in the Normandy invasion on Omaha Beach, and is now docked on the Ohio River, near the former location of the Evansville Shipyard.

## **ADDRESSING SAFETY AT HOME AND ABROAD**

### **Federal Assistance for Local Law Enforcement to Fight Crime**

Hoosiers have the right to live in peace. Yet, violent crime remains a problem throughout our state. Joe is committed to bringing people together at the city, state, and federal levels to curtail troubling trends of violent crime.

"There have been 63 violent deaths in Indianapolis so far this year compared to 58 a year ago. Eight of those homicides have been ruled in self-defense, including the death of Valdemar Enriguez, a Texas man who died in a shootout when he tried to rob a northwest side drug house last week. The two Gary, Indiana, men who died defending the house where heroin was found count toward 2014's murder tally which now stands at 55, seven murders beyond 2013's body count. U.S. Senator Joe Donnelly hosted a trio of town hall meetings to learn about prescription and illegal drug use in Hamilton County and murder in Haughville and on the east side." -WXIN, 5.27.14

Joe believes the first step to fighting crime is to hear from the people most affected by it. That is why in May, Joe hosted a series of meetings to hear directly from Hoosier families and professionals faced with these challenges.



In Marion County, Joe hosted public meetings where he heard from family members of those lost to violence, from young people facing peer pressure, and from community elders. Joe heard directly from Hoosiers concerned about the need for mentorships, opportunities to learn skills and trades, and efforts to prevent the trafficking of illegal guns by criminals.

Joe and his staff continue to meet with law enforcement, community leaders, healthcare providers, and families impacted by violent crime in every corner of the state. He knows that these problems are not isolated to one particular community, and to address them, we will need to bring together resources and insight from the local, state, and federal levels.

“Crime concerns are widespread, not just among city leaders, but the state as well. One U.S. Senator wants to hear from you about the current wave of violence in Indianapolis.” –WTHR, 5.27.14

To help ensure that Hoosier law enforcement have the resources they need to continue keeping our communities safe, Joe supported several programs in this year’s appropriations process related to crime prevention, including:

- **Byrne Justice Assistance Grants:** Supports numerous state and local law enforcement efforts to address serious crime problems and promote evidence-based policing, prosecution, prevention, and treatment strategies;
- **Byrne Criminal Justice Innovation (BCJI) Program:** Supports innovative, evidence-based approaches to fighting crime and improving public safety, as well as addressing its underlying problems. The program builds upon the approach of supporting communities with strategies that combine law enforcement, community policing, prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration;
- **Regional Information Sharing Systems (RISS) Program:** Investigative support for over 9,000 state, local, federal, and tribal law enforcement agencies nationwide. The program seeks to improve coordination between existing field-based information sharing entities in order to enhance their information-sharing capabilities and reduce inefficiencies resulting from overlap.

## **Combating Heroin Use and Prescription Drug Abuse**

In many Hoosier communities, heroin use, addiction, and overdose deaths are becoming a critical issue. Coupled with the steady pervasion of prescription drug abuse—many heroin users report having first abused prescription drugs before turning to heroin—this presents a serious challenge to the health and wellness of our state.

In Fishers and Connersville, Joe brought together stakeholders to discuss the ongoing and emerging impact of prescription drug abuse and the rise in heroin use throughout central Indiana. He heard from law enforcement, school leaders, community leaders, and elected officials about the challenges they face keeping drugs off our streets and the need to educate young people.

To help address Indiana’s and the nation’s growing heroin and prescription drug abuse problems, in June, Donnelly introduced bipartisan legislation with Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-

NH)—the *Heroin and Prescription Opioid Abuse Prevention, Education, and Enforcement Act of 2014*. The bill promotes partnerships and coordination on the local, state, and federal levels in order to begin to combat the increasing levels of heroin use and prescription drug abuse.

“Sen. Donnelly says he arranged the conference to get their perspective on how he can help make their jobs a little easier and help them face the challenges that they face every day in the war on drugs. ‘They are working hard every day to cut off the pipeline for drugs that comes in because so much of other crime is related to drug use,’ he said. The Senator says that the drug problem is across the board. ‘Hamilton and Boone Counties are such beautiful places but we face the same challenges here that every community faces in this country and we have dedicated law enforcement officials that are dealing with this every single day,’ he said.” –Current in Fishers, 6.3.14

The Ayotte-Donnelly bill would create an interagency task force to develop best practices for prescribing pain medication, authorize the Harold Rogers Prescription Drug Monitoring Program—a

competitive grant program that helps states support their Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs—reauthorize the Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Program to bolster prevention and law enforcement programs at the state and local levels, and establish a national awareness campaign to highlight the dangerous link between prescription drug abuse and heroin addiction.

The Ayotte-Donnelly legislation has earned the support of numerous organizations, including: the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police; The Carmel Police Department; Drug Free Marion County; The Marion County Commission on Youth; HVAF (Hoosier Veteran Assistance Foundation) of Indiana; and Justin Phillips, a Hoosier mother who lost her son to an overdose of heroin and created the non-profit Overdose-Lifeline, Inc.

As violent crime, heroin use, and prescription drug abuse remain serious problems for Hoosier families, Joe will continue working with Indiana organizations, law enforcement, and community leaders to try to find solutions to these challenges. Joe strongly believes every Hoosier should have the opportunity to take care of his or her family and retire with dignity, and he knows that only by working together to leverage our local, state, and federal resources can we achieve this goal.

### **Aging Hearing on Scams and Fraud**

Crimes of consumer fraud have been and continue to be a significant problem in the United States. Indiana alone registered 24,777 cases of fraud and other consumer complaints and 3,845 cases of identity theft in 2013. Seniors are often fraud targets because of a perception that seniors are vulnerable and have a lifetime of savings available to steal. For all reported fraud complaints in 2013, Americans aged 50-years and older comprised 47% of the victims, and an AARP report shows that older individuals are more likely to fall victim to investment, lottery, and identity theft frauds.

In response, Joe held a field hearing of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging at the Indiana State Fair in August to help spread the word about how to identify and properly report scams and fraud targeting Hoosier seniors.

The hearing entitled, “Trust Your Instincts? Tools to Empower Seniors to Identify Scams and Fraud” featured testimony from Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller, the AARP of Indiana, the Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, and a Hoosier whose mother was affected by a phone scam. Congressman André Carson of Indiana’s 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District also participated in the hearing.



Joe said of the hearing, “After a lifetime of hard work, seniors should have peace of mind knowing they can enjoy their retirement in peace and with financial security. By providing seniors with knowledge and resources to identify scams and fraud, we can reduce the number of victims who lose out financially to these often-sophisticated schemes. By bringing together lawmakers, law enforcement professionals, advocacy groups, and seniors, we strive to increase awareness of senior fraud, encourage collaboration between all stakeholders, and consider new ideas on how to effectively address this issue going forward.”

The panel emphasized that scams and fraud come in many different shapes and sizes. In addition, the criminals behind these schemes are becoming increasingly savvy and use elaborate methods to cheat seniors out of their hard-earned money. Investigating and prosecuting financial criminals is and must remain a priority for law enforcement agencies and policymakers at all levels of government.

The testimony at the hearing highlighted the following themes that can help to promote fraud identification and prevention:

- **Education is the key to preventing senior fraud.** Many seniors do not believe they personally will fall victim to fraud and as such, do not take the necessary precautions. Promoting fraud awareness and education by sharing victims’ experiences is one of the most effective ways to emphasize the scope and prevalence of these financial crimes.
- **Remove the stigma associated with being a fraud victim.** To encourage victims to share their experiences with fraud and scams, we must get rid of the stigma associated with falling victim to these schemes. Misplaced stigma contributes to underreporting, which makes it difficult for law enforcement to investigate and prosecute these criminals. Seniors should never feel embarrassed or ashamed of being the target. Instead, we should focus on educating seniors on the sophisticated techniques scammers use.
- **Use commonsense precautions to avoid scams.** Seniors can reduce the risk of becoming a victim of scam or fraud by keeping personal information confidential and checking with family and friends about a suspicious call, email, or letter. An unknown caller, email, or mailer that offers a deal that seems too good to be true

probably is. Most importantly, seniors should never hesitate to call the authorities if they have been the victim of fraud.

Sharing victims' stories and preventive measures to recognize common signs of consumer fraud and scams are effective strategies to help seniors avoid becoming victims of these crimes. To promote awareness, Joe dedicated a page on his website to resources on fraud and scams including how to file a consumer fraud complaint, how to help protect yourself from becoming a victim, and links to other helpful organizations. The testimony from the field hearing is available on the page as well as a short video of notable clips from the hearing.

Joe's office followed up by releasing a white paper that detailed consumer fraud and scams targeting senior citizens. The paper, building off of themes discussed at the hearing, outlines common schemes and highlights resources available to Hoosiers to identify and properly report scams and fraud.

By holding the field hearing and providing online resources, Joe emphasized the high frequency of common consumer fraud targeting seniors. Seniors often do not understand the scope and prevalence of fraud and feel ashamed if they become the victim of a scheme. Too often the conversation is about vulnerable seniors, rather than the savvy con artists who perpetrate elaborate, well-orchestrated scams. By keeping older Americans up-to-date on the types of new fraud and scams and encouraging them to seek help if they suspect a financial scheme, seniors can protect themselves and their savings.

### **Co-Leading a Congressional Delegation to Meet with Military Abroad**

In his role on the Senate Armed Services Committee, Joe helped lead a bipartisan congressional delegation to Israel, Afghanistan, and Ukraine in March. Senator Kelly Ayotte (R-NH) and Representative Stephen Lynch (D-MA) accompanied Donnelly on the trip.



"This trip provided an important opportunity to meet with leaders and military personnel in Afghanistan, Israel, and Ukraine at a time when we face serious and pressing international challenges," Joe said after returning from the delegation.

With the transition underway from American to Afghan security forces, Joe had an opportunity to assess conditions on the ground in Afghanistan, meet with Hoosier servicemembers, as well as U.S. military leaders and members of the Afghan government.



Joe said, “I had the privilege of meeting with some of our Hoosier servicemen and women. I was able to thank them for their service to our country and find out how we can help them transition back into civilian life.”

In Israel, Joe discussed peace negotiations with Israeli and Palestinian leaders, the importance of preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon, and reaffirmed the importance of the strategic U.S.-Israel relationship.

Joe also traveled to Kiev, Ukraine, where the delegation met with Ukrainian citizens and government leaders. During a meeting with government leaders, Joe talked about the need to protect Ukraine’s sovereignty following Russia’s illegal invasion and annexation of Crimea.

Some of the highlights from the delegation include:

### **Israel**

- Meeting with Israel Defense Forces on strategies to reduce and prevent military suicide;
- Meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then-President Shimon Peres, Palestinian Deputy Prime Minister Mustafa and U.S. Ambassador to Israel Daniel Shapiro; and
- Visiting Iron Dome Launch Site and Arrow, Citron Tree Defense Control Center.

### **Afghanistan**

- Meeting with Hoosier servicemembers;
- Visiting the 9/11 Memorial at Bagram Air Field;
- Meeting with then-Afghan President Hamid Karzi, members of the Afghan parliament, General Dunford—then-Commander of NATO’s International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan—and U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan James Cunningham; and
- Receiving briefings from NATO Special Operations and Afghan National Army Special Operations Forces.

### **Ukraine**

- Meeting with Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk, Petro Poroshenko (who was elected as Ukraine’s President in May 2014), cabinet ministers, and other government leaders; and
- Speaking with Ukrainian citizens in the Maydan and visiting memorials on the Instytutska.

## JUST ASK JOE

Joe maintains a high standard for customer service, which means Hoosiers should feel comfortable to “Just Ask Joe” when they have a question, opinion, or problem with the federal government they need help solving. Joe makes sure his office does all that it can to help, including responding to thoughts on or questions regarding a legislative issue, assisting with a problem with a federal agency, giving tours of the U.S. Capitol, ordering a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol, or helping to identify and apply for a federal grant.

### Correspondence

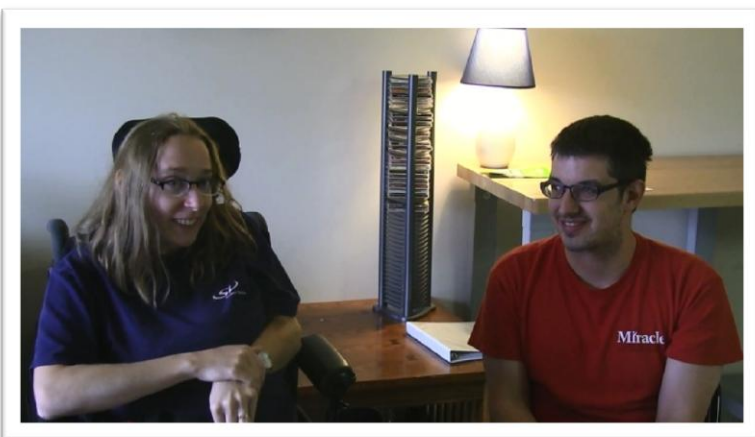
In 2014, Joe heard from constituents from each of Indiana’s 92 counties. Overall, the office logged a total of 228,038 constituent contacts; 86% of which were received via email, 10.5% by phone call, and 3.5% from postal mail and fax. Correspondence was heaviest from the metropolitan areas of Indianapolis and Fort Wayne. The average turnaround time from logging a constituent’s concerns to responding was 10 days.



### Casework

This year, Joe’s office worked on 2,867 cases for Hoosiers. Of that number, 2,537 cases have been closed. Joe’s assistance resulted in \$3,019,021 returned to Hoosiers. The top four most prevalent areas of casework in 2014 were with the Veterans Administration, Social Security Administration, U.S. Customs and Immigration Services, and the State Department. The cities with the most casework were Indianapolis and South Bend.

Since coming to the Senate, Joe has assisted Hoosiers from all 92 counties on issues with federal agencies. The following stories are a few specific examples of Hoosiers “Just Asking Joe” to get the services they needed:



#### **Katelynn and Jordan Mentz, Noblesville**

Katelynn and Jordan Mentz of Noblesville contacted Joe’s office requesting assistance in working with the Social Security Administration (SSA) to receive disability benefits they were owed and had been struggling to obtain for more than two years. Joe’s office was able to help the couple restore their

benefits to the correct amount, in addition to assisting in their receipt of back-pay from benefits due.

### **Tom Ducheteau, Ligonier**

Tom Ducheteau, a veteran and small business owner from Ligonier, contacted Joe's office for help verifying his small business certification, his veteran-owned business certification, and his HUBZone certification. He needed these certifications verified quickly in order to secure a business contract. Within less than three days of calling Joe's office, Ducheteau's certifications were renewed and the contract in question was saved, allowing for a brighter future for his company and increased job security for his workers.



### **Kathleen Blondin-Stone, Hanover**

Kathleen Blondin-Stone of Hanover contacted Joe's office requesting help in retrieving her father's military service records and medals. Although Blondin-Stone knew her father served in World War II, she wanted to learn more about his service. Joe's office recovered his service records, discharge papers, and the medals he earned fighting for the United States. From the recovered service records, Blondin-Stone learned new details regarding her father's role during

the war and was able to share the information with her siblings. She also connected with veterans who served with her father.

### **Mintonye Elementary School, Lafayette**

In November 2013, Mintonye Elementary School in Lafayette was forced to shut its doors after a tornado caused severe damage to the school property. Among the damage was much of the school's library book collection. Thanks to the support of many local organizations, the school was able to replenish the library collection in time for its reopening in 2014. Joe's office was pleased to help with that effort through the Library of Congress' Surplus Books Program. The Library of Congress Surplus Books Program has available at all times, for donation to eligible organizations and institutions, surplus books that are not needed for the Library's own uses. Joe's office is able to help Hoosier schools and public libraries build their book collections through this program.



### **Navigating a U.S. Service Academy Nomination: Interviews with Hoosiers**

Three of Joe's 2014 nominations to a U.S. service academy spoke about their experiences during the selection process and offered advice to future applicants. Those interviewed were: Emanuel Beer, Leo, U.S. Naval Academy; Sarah Nakata, Indianapolis, U.S. Military

Academy; and Christian Wittendorf, Granger, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy.



### **FAFSA Information Sessions**

In February 2014, Joe's office partnered with Ivy Tech Community College, University of Southern Indiana, and Indiana University South Bend to host three information sessions in Evansville, Indianapolis, and South Bend regarding the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. Prospective students gained

knowledge about the application process from experts from the Department of Education, the Veterans Benefits Administration, and local colleges. Members of Joe's staff were also on hand to offer assistance.

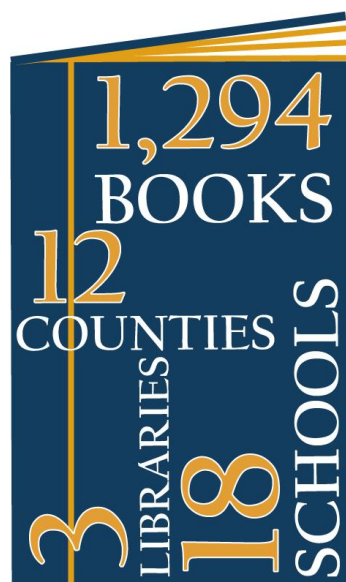


### **Tours**

Joe believes that his office is every Hoosier's office. When Hoosier families or schools visit D.C., he and his staff try to make their experience as enjoyable as possible. In 2014, his office scheduled or had a staff member lead a total of 448 U.S. Capitol tours for 2,955 constituents from 63 counties.

### **Library of Congress Surplus Books Program**

Joe's office works with schools and libraries to participate in the Library of Congress Surplus Books Program. This program has available at all times, for donation to eligible organizations and institutions, surplus books that are not needed for the Library's own uses. Joe's office is able to help Hoosier schools and public libraries build their book collections through this program. In 2014, his office helped provide 1,294 books to 18 schools and 3 libraries in 12 counties from around the state.







## Flags

Hoosiers can submit orders to Senator Donnelly for flags that have been flown over the U.S. Capitol. In 2014, Joe's office processed a total of 118 flag requests for 284 flags for Hoosiers from 57 different communities.

## Newly-Created Wayne Townsend and Frank J. Anderson Legislative Programs

In April, Joe announced the creation of the Wayne Townsend and Frank J. Anderson Legislative Programs. These programs are designed to provide individuals interested in public service with the opportunity to serve in Donnelly's Washington, D.C. office to work with his legislative staff.

He named the programs after two outstanding Hoosiers:

- **W. Wayne Townsend** is a Hartford City, Indiana farmer who was the Democratic gubernatorial nominee in 1984. Townsend served in both the Indiana House of Representatives and the Indiana State Senate for a total of 23 years. He is a graduate of the Purdue School of Agriculture and later served on the school's Board of Trustees. He is a past president of the Grant County Purdue Agricultural Alumni Association, and a past director of the Purdue Agricultural Alumni Association. In 2007, he received the Frank O'Bannon Public Service Award.
- **Frank J. Anderson**, from Indianapolis, Indiana, joined the United States Navy in 1956 and was honorably discharged in 1959. Following his military service, Anderson attended college, became a Marion County Sheriff Deputy, and ultimately served as a United States Marshal for the Southern District of Indiana and Marion County Sheriff. Sheriff Anderson dedicated over 50 years to public service.



Joe noted that these two men represent the best of the Hoosier willingness to serve our neighbors and work toward the betterment of our local communities, state, and nation.

The legislative programs are designed to give the next generation of Hoosier public servants an opportunity to learn about and participate in the legislative process in the U.S. Senate:

- The Wayne Townsend Legislative Program is designed to provide an individual interested in public service the opportunity to serve in Joe's Washington, D.C. office. The legislative program is for a highly motivated, outstanding undergraduate or

recent graduate with an interest in public service. The individual selected for the program receives a stipend and works in Washington, D.C.

- The Frank J. Anderson Legislative Program is designed to provide a highly motivated, outstanding individual who has an interest in military and defense issues, along with an interest in a career in public service, the opportunity to serve in Joe's Washington, D.C. office. The individual selected for the program receives a stipend and works in Washington, D.C.

## **Service Academy Nominations**

Each year, Joe has the opportunity to nominate Hoosier high school students to attend one of our nation's service academies. In 2014, Joe nominated 51 young men and women for consideration for admittance in 2015 to the U.S. Naval Academy, U.S. Military Academy, U.S. Air Force Academy, and U.S. Merchant Marine Academy. These Hoosiers hail from Indianapolis, Zionsville, Carmel, Lebanon, New Palestine, Zionsville, Evansville, Fishers, Granger, Crown Point, Plainfield, Washington, Auburn, Valparaiso, Walton, Muncie, Fort Wayne, Pendleton, Hartford, Kokomo, Oakland, Elkhart, and Culver.

## **Grants**

Joe is committed to helping enterprising communities, businesses, and not-for-profit organizations understand the highly competitive federal grants process in order to improve the possibility of a positive outcome. He understands that it is critical to Indiana's continued growth that proposed projects with a good foundation in place and strong community support have an opportunity to obtain federal grant dollars. If Indiana organizations and communities are not receiving this funding, only other states will benefit from Hoosier taxpayer dollars. In 2014, Joe supported 86 grant applications for projects in 31 counties across the state. For the year, more than \$34.5 million in grants and low-interest loans came back to the state with his support.

## ***Grant Accomplishments***

***City of Indianapolis, Indy/ Indy MPO.*** Joe supported IndyGo's application for a DOT TIGER grant to begin implementation of the rapid transit Red Line, a 28-mile bus line that is the spine of its complete bus rapid transit plan, Indy Connect. Indy Connect is a multi-faceted plan that will include five new rapid transit lines aimed at improving local service through added express and circulator routes to suburban areas. The Red Line, which will run from Hamilton County through Marion County and end in Johnson County, will connect 1 in 5 jobs in central Indiana and have a significant impact on the area's economy and quality of life. This funding will be used for environmental review and preliminary engineering with the intent of developing the country's first all-electric Bus Rapid Transit line. **Award amount: \$2,073,200**

***The City of Nappanee, Elkhart County,*** with Joe's support, received \$28,210,000 from Rural Development in Rural Utilities Service funds to upgrade its sewer overflow systems. The funding package includes \$15,345,000 in low-interest rate loans as well as a \$12,865,000 grant. This project will allow the city to upgrade its sewage systems to satisfy federal requirements while reducing the financial burden to the community. **Award amount: \$28,210,000.**

***EmployIndy***, the non-profit workforce investment arm of the Indianapolis Private Industry Council, received a YouthBuild grant through the Department of Labor's Employment & Training Administration to support their established program with Joe's support. The YouthBuild initiative plays an important role in closing the skills gap by providing young Marion County residents the opportunity and support required to earn a High School Equivalency diploma, transition into vocational training or college, receive credentialed construction training and develop soft skills while transforming abandoned homes into low-income housing. The program is open to 18-24 year olds who don't have a high school diploma. **Award amount: \$1,100,000**

***White County Airport/White County Economic Development***. Joe encouraged White County's vision for economic growth by supporting their plan to improve travel and logistics to and from White County by competing for a Federal Aviation Administration grant to extend the airport runway to accommodate larger planes. The longer runway will give the airport the ability to take in larger aircraft, including corporate and freight planes. This addresses the needs of existing businesses in the county and will increase the county's competitiveness when working to attract new investment. **Award amount: \$1,657,955**

***City of Bedford/Virgil Grissom Municipal Airport***. Joe also supported the runway extension efforts of Virgil Grissom Municipal Airport, just outside Bedford in Lawrence County. They received an Airport Improvement Grant from the FAA. This grant will provide funding to extend the airport's main runway, which will allow it to service larger aircraft in support of manufacturers in the area. Once operational, city and county officials expect the extended runway to incentivize additional economic development. **Award amount: \$2,709,313**

***Mishawaka Police Department***. The Mishawaka Police Department received funding with Joe's support to add an additional police officer to their rolls. The officer, whose salary and benefits will be funded by the DOJ through its Community Oriented Policing Strategy program (COPS), will be assigned to work within the Mishawaka school system to develop trusting relationships with students. **Award amount: \$125,000**

### ***Other Accomplishments and Ongoing Efforts***

***North Vernon Waste Treatment***. In early 2014, Joe supported the City of North Vernon's application to USDA Rural Development for funding to address the city's combined sewer overflow issues. In addition to managing sewer and waste for North Vernon, the city has taken over waste treatment for Muscatatuck Urban Training Center from the Indiana National Guard and U.S. Department of Defense. The City of North Vernon was approved for a 40-year low-interest loan through USDA Rural Development. While this funding was much needed, Joe is continuing to work with North Vernon and USDA to identify other types of funding to reduce the loan length and financial impact on the city.

***Grant eNewsletters***. Information about specific federal grants as well as tips to make the application process easier are sent from Joe's grants director throughout the year as funding opportunities are announced. These eNewsletters go to constituents who have signed up for grant information through Joe's website, in addition to those who may be interested in the information, based on the requests made to the office.

## Engaging with Hoosiers on Social Media

Joe knows that social media platforms can be valuable tools for communicating with his fellow Hoosiers. Whether it's sharing progress on his legislative priorities, letting people know when he's visited their hometown, or spreading #GoodNews that's happening around the state, Joe wants to utilize every opportunity to let Hoosiers know how he's working for them.

Senator Joe Donnelly @SenDonnelly · Dec 12

1/4 The Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act just passed the Senate, now heads to the President's desk  
[1.usa.gov/1uxTjBS](http://1.usa.gov/1uxTjBS)

14 6

Senator Joe Donnelly @SenDonnelly · Jan 6

Thanks to @INGuardsman, who, in these Humvees, have been helping transport those without power to warming stations.



17

Senator Joe Donnelly @SenDonnelly · Dec 9

#GoodNews: @Chrysler announced plans this week to invest \$226M in two of its Kokomo transmission plants. [bit.ly/12mdATz](http://bit.ly/12mdATz)

3 1

Senator Joe Donnelly

Senator Donnelly Visits Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Israel (16 photos)  
On Monday, Senator Donnelly returned from a bipartisan congressional delegation to Ukraine, Afghanistan, and Israel. While there he had the chance to meet with Hoosier servicemembers, government leaders, and other military personnel. Learn more about Senator Donnelly's delegation here  
<http://www.donnelly.senate.gov/newsroom/press/senator-donnelly-visits-ukraine-afghanistan-and-israel>.



Senator Joe Donnelly @SenDonnelly · Jun 10

"Donnelly is now positioning himself as the nation's most moderate legislator." -  
@IndyMonthly piece on Joe's approach  
[bit.ly/1oJZzX7](http://bit.ly/1oJZzX7)

9 7

Senator Joe Donnelly created an event.

**Trust Your Instincts?**  
**Tools to Empower Seniors**  
**to Identify Scams and Fraud**

Trust Your Instincts? Tools to Empower Seniors to Identify Scams and Fraud

Tuesday, August 5 at 10:30am  
Indiana State Fairgrounds - Farm Bureau Banquet Hall in Indianapolis, Indiana

Join

Senator Joe Donnelly

Congratulations to the US Men's National Soccer Team on advancing to the knockout round, and to Fort Wayne native DaMarcus Beasley and former Notre Dame standout Matt Besler as #USMNT continues to make us proud in the #WorldCup. #OneNationOneTeam

949,760 people reached

Boost Post

Like · Comment · Share

410 23 14 Shares



"We want people to know it's a sign of **strength** to seek help."



Senator Joe Donnelly @SenDonnelly · Dec 10  
#PassSextonAct donnelly.senate.gov/Jacob-Sexton-A... pic.twitter.com/cAUUQIQq/X

In November, Joe began tweeting daily fun facts about Indiana towns. Follow Joe at @SenDonnelly for updates all next year. #INTownoftheday

Senator Joe Donnelly @SenDonnelly · 22h  
Ogden Dunes was once home to a 192 ft. ski jump—highest in the US at the time.  
[bit.ly/1A5iTDZ](http://bit.ly/1A5iTDZ) #INTownoftheday



Senator Joe Donnelly @SenDonnelly · Nov 24  
Swayzee holds the IN high school basketball record for most overtimes from its nine-overtime game vs. Liberty Center in 1964 #INTownoftheday

View more photos and videos

Senator Joe Donnelly

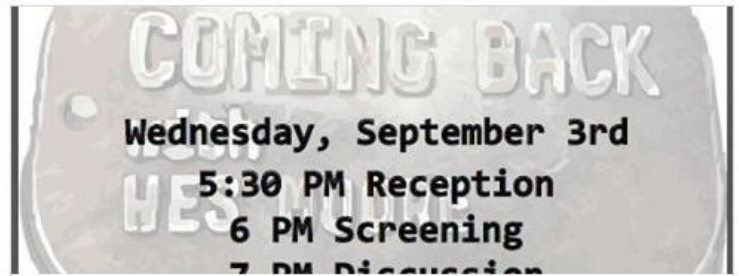
#### Veterans Day 2014 (17 photos)

On Veterans Day 2014, Joe participated in the Belzer Middle School Veterans Day Convocation in Indianapolis, the Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis Memorial Service at the Indiana War Memorial, and the South Grove Intermediate School Veterans Day Program in Beech Grove.



Senator Joe Donnelly @SenDonnelly · Nov 25  
North Manchester is the birthplace of Thomas R. Marshall, Indiana's 27th governor, and America's 28th vice president  
#INTownoftheday

Senator Joe Donnelly created an event.



Screening of Servicemember Transition Film "Coming Back with Wes Moore"

Wednesday, September 3 at 5:30pm  
WFYI Public Media, Reuben Community Room, 1630 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis, IN

Join



/senatordonnelly



@SenDonnelly



sendonnelly

## MORE WISDOM IN INDIANA

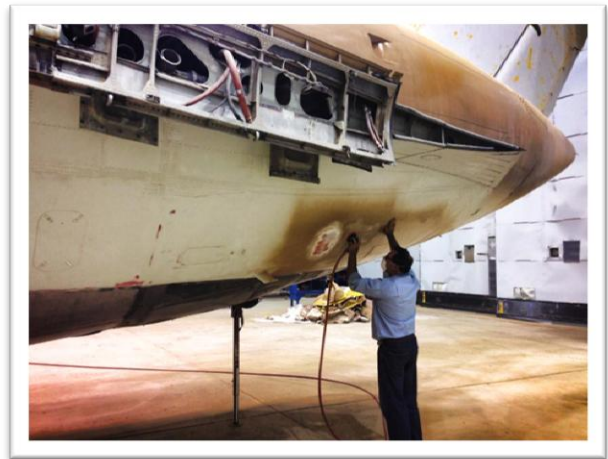
Joe believes his most valuable resource in informing his decision-making as a United States Senator is his fellow Hoosiers. That is why he makes great effort to get home nearly every weekend—and because he knows that challenges in one corner of the state are just as important as challenges in another—he works hard to spend time visiting communities all across the state. In fact, this year, Joe visited all 92 counties. This section highlights some of Joe's visits in 2014 to Hoosier cities, towns, businesses, non-profits and with workers, farmers, and everyone in between.

### **"Donnelly Days"**

In August, Joe launched "Donnelly Days," an ongoing series of events where he works alongside Hoosiers in a variety of jobs and professions in communities across Indiana. By spending time in different Hoosier workers' shoes, Joe is able to learn about the challenges being faced by them and their employers so that he can better understand how he can help Indiana continue to create jobs and grow opportunities for all.

#### **Thor Industries & Dean Baldwin Painting**

Joe kicked off "Donnelly Days" at Thor Industries in Elkhart on August 8, where he worked on the line installing an awning and lights onto a Vegas RUV. Then, Joe went to Dean Baldwin Painting in Peru and had the chance to be trained in sanding techniques alongside workers in the aircraft strip and paint services industry.



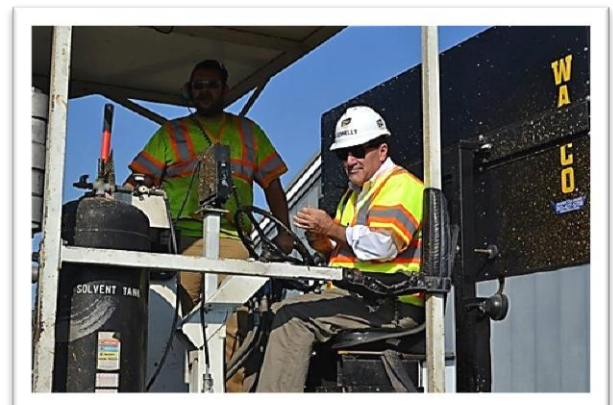
#### **Allison Transmission with Secretary Perez and Congressman Carson**

On September 4, Joe hosted U.S. Secretary of Labor Tom Perez along with U.S. Representative André Carson for a "Donnelly Day" at Allison Transmission where they worked at three stations at the transmission plant—including running the pinion gear cell, gaging parts, and working on the main assembly line—to put together transmissions.

#### **Indiana Sign and Barricade & Aeon Imaging**

On October 1, Joe had "Donnelly Day" events at Indiana Sign and Barricade in Indianapolis,

where he learned how to stripe lane lines with workers, and at Aeon Imaging in Bloomington,





where he helped assemble a prototype diabetes retinal camera system with Aeon Imaging staff.

### **In-State Travel**

In 2014, Joe spent 199 days in Indiana, during which he visited 117 cities and towns and each of the state's 92 counties. He participated in or hosted 460 events in communities across Indiana.

### **Traveling Indiana**

Below is a snapshot of some of his travels around the state in the last year.

On **January 25**, Joe spoke at the Granger Community Church's annual food drop where volunteers helped load and deliver food to those in need.

On **February 1**, Joe attended the Purdue Ag Alumni Fish Fry at the Indiana State Fairgrounds.

On **February 14**, Joe toured Kokomo's Jackson Street Commons, a project designed to provide housing opportunities for homeless veterans in the Howard County area.

On **February 17**, Joe visited the Beef House Restaurant in Covington to have lunch with local county Farm Bureau leaders to discuss the Farm Bill and other key agriculture issues. He then visited the Wal-Mart distribution center in Crawfordsville for a tour of the facility and to talk about economic development for the area.



On **February 18**, Joe visited the Coca-Cola facility in Speedway and the Amazon warehouse in Whitestown.

On **April 11**, Joe visited Mursix Corporation in Yorktown and Allied Enterprises in Muncie for tours of their facilities and then stopped by Ball State to learn about updates to their course material.

On **April 12**, Joe attended the inaugural Indy Eleven game in Indianapolis.

On **April 14**, Joe joined former Governor Mitch Daniels at Purdue to discuss ways he and the Military Family

Research Institute at Purdue are working together to ease the transition of military servicemembers into civilian life.



On **April 17**, Joe visited Ultra Electronics – USSI in Columbia City to highlight and commend the company’s involvement in the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight 370.

On **April 22**, Joe toured the Northwest Indiana/Chicago Waterways to witness first-hand the measures being taken to prevent the spread of invasive species like Asian Carp in the area.



On **April 26**, Joe attended the National Guard Association of Indiana’s Annual Conference in French Lick where he received the Charles Dick Medal of Merit, which is designed to recognize the contributions to the National Guard by elected representatives to legislative bodies at the state and national levels.



On **May 2**, Joe attended the groundbreaking for the new BAE Systems, Inc. plant in Fort Wayne, spoke at the Indiana Letter Carriers State Convention on the importance of preserving our postal service, and then met with the Fort Wayne Base Community Council that afternoon.

On **May 26**, Joe attended Memorial Day services in Dunnington at St. Mary’s Cemetery, in West Lafayette at the Indiana Veterans’ Home, and in Lafayette at the Tippecanoe County War Memorial.



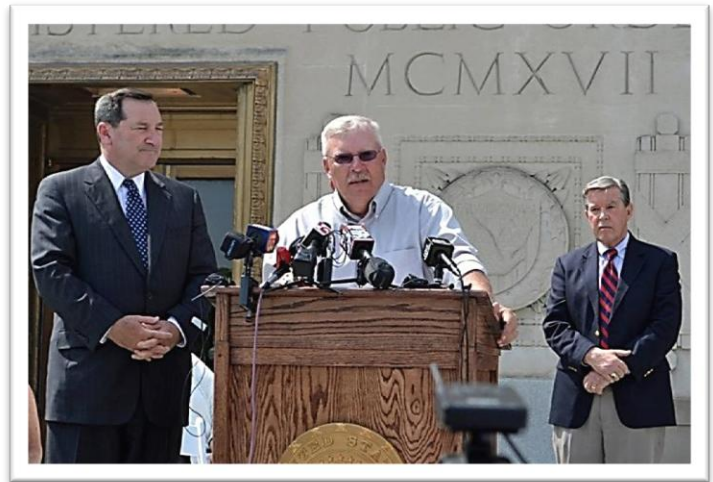
On **May 27**, Joe held a series of meetings to discuss the recent increase in drug use and violent crime in certain areas of the state. In Fishers, Joe met with members of the Hamilton and Boone County Drug Task Force, along with other local stakeholders, to address the issues of heroin use and prescription drug abuse. He then held community meetings at both the Christamore House and Forest Manor Multi-





Service Center in Indianapolis to hear from local Hoosiers affected by violent crime. Finally, that evening, Joe participated in a ride-along with an IMPD officer.

On **May 28**, Joe was in Indianapolis to announce significant progress on the Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2014. Joe held a press conference on the steps of the Indiana War Memorial with Jeff and Barb Sexton (parents of Jacob Sexton, for whom the bill is named), along with other supporters of the bill, to announce that his legislation aimed at reducing military suicide had been included in the 2015 National Defense Authorization Act, and would likely be signed into law later in the year.

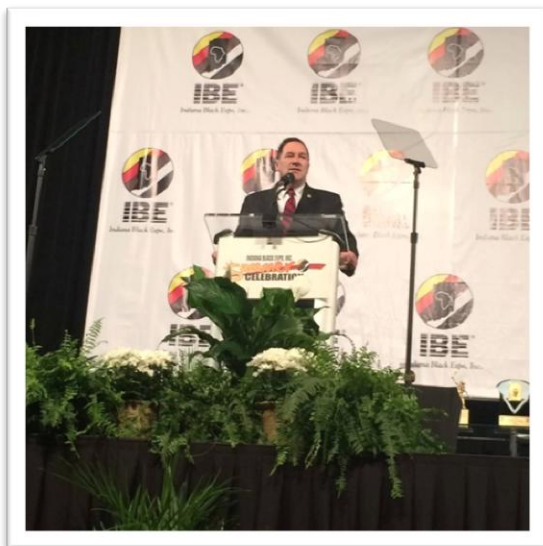


On **June 2**, Joe toured Eli Lilly's new insulin manufacturing facility in Indianapolis with Congressman André Carson.

On **June 21**, Joe visited Hudson Farms for the Montgomery County Farm Bureau Young Farmer Dinner.

On **July 1**, Joe hosted Holly Petraeus of the Office of Servicemember Affairs at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Indiana Attorney General Greg Zoeller, and leaders of the Indiana National Guard for two roundtable discussions on financial protections for members of the Indiana National Guard, active military, Hoosier veterans, and their families.

On **July 18**, Joe attended the Indiana Black Expo Corporate Luncheon and Awards Presentation at the Indiana Convention Center.



On **August 5**, Joe hosted a U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging field hearing at the Indiana State Fairgrounds. Titled "Trust Your Instincts? Tools to Empower Seniors to Identify Scams and Fraud," the hearing aimed to help Hoosier seniors recognize potential warnings of financial predators. Congressman André Carson and Indiana Attorney General Gregg Zoeller participated in the hearing.



On **August 11 & 12**, Joe made stops at Indiana farms and production facilities to discuss the recently passed five-year Farm Bill. He visited Scott Farms in Pierceton, Beck's Hybrids in Atlanta, the Elanco Headquarters and the Hoosier Harvest Market in Greenfield, and the Farbest Foods facility in Vincennes.

From **August 20-22**, Joe visited several southern Indiana communities on his **2014 Ohio River Tour**. Joe made stops in Lawrenceburg,

Rising Sun, Vevay, Madison, New Albany, Jeffersonville, Corydon, Marengo, Tell City, Chrisney, Newburgh, Evansville, and Mount Vernon to discuss economic development, job creation, and other local issues with area businesses and organizations.

On **September 2**, Joe visited Hautau Tube Cutoff Systems in Brookville, Decatur County Memorial Hospital in Greensburg, and Knauf Insulation in Shelbyville.

On **September 3**, Joe hosted U.S. Secretary of Labor Tom Perez and Congressman André Carson for a series of visits with Indiana workers, students, and employers to discuss and highlight innovation in job training approaches in the Indianapolis area. They visited Pike High School, met with workers at the Walsh Construction Company site on the 465/65 interchange, and then participated in a



“Donnelly Day” event at Allison Transmission.



On the evening of **September 3**, Joe joined WFYI to host a screening of “Coming Back with Wes Moore”—a PBS program on servicemembers' transition home and the challenges of post-traumatic stress—in Indianapolis, with a discussion following the showing of the film.



On **October 3**, Joe spoke at the Indiana Habitat for Humanity 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Luncheon in Indianapolis.



do to address issues affecting Hoosier seniors. He also visited Huntington University.

On **October 15**, Joe had lunch at Fair Oaks Farms in Fair Oaks and visited Kent Neibart's farm in Morocco.

On **October 27**, Joe joined Gary Mayor Karen Freeman-Wilson, Congressman Pete Visclosky, and other local leaders for a press conference at the Gary/Chicago International

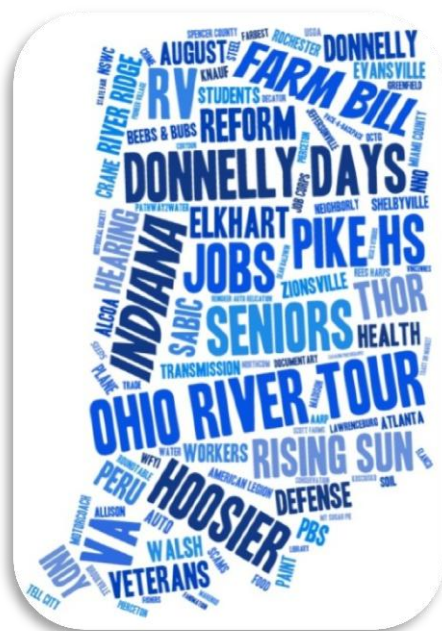


On **November 8**, Joe attended the Indy Honor Flight Homecoming Celebration at Plainfield High School.

On **November 11**, Joe attended Veterans Day events at Belzer Middle School in Indianapolis, the Indiana War Memorial with

On **October 8**, Joe met with the Rush County Economic Development Corporation in Rush County to talk about business growth and job creation. Joe also visited Elder Heart, a non-profit veteran organization raising awareness of veteran suicide, to thank them for their efforts.

On **October 9**,  
visited the Wells  
County Council on  
Aging to thank  
Executive Director  
Bonnie Valind and  
her staff for all they



Airport to tout the significant progress toward the completion of expanding the Gary Airport runway.

On **November 6**, Joe visited Connersville for a roundtable discussion at the House of Ruth, a local shelter for recovering drug addicts, on the rising occurrence of heroin overdoses in the Connersville community. While there, Joe met recovering victims of heroin abuse and local law enforcement leaders trying to battle the epidemic.



the Veterans Day Council of Indianapolis, and South Grove Intermediate School in Beech Grove.

On **December 6**, Joe dropped by the annual WNDU Toys-for-Tots donation drive in South Bend to make a donation and support the event.

On **December 19**, Joe joined Jeff and Barb Sexton and other supporters of the Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act at the Indiana War Memorial to announce final passage of the bill. Also on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Joe accepted the Friend of Indiana's Electric Cooperatives Award from industry leaders in Indianapolis.



On **December 24**, Joe and his family joined U.S. Marines and local veterans to distribute Toys-for-Tots toys at Memorial Hospital of South Bend.



## **Hosting Hoosiers in Washington**

Joe strives to have an open and accessible office for Hoosiers visiting our nation's capital. Much of his time spent in D.C. is devoted to meeting with Indiana groups of all varieties—including small business owners, labor leaders, school groups, local elected officials, and advocacy groups of all kinds—to lend an ear to challenges they are facing and stay attuned to how he can best be of service to Indiana.

Below is a small sampling of some of the meetings that took place in his D.C. office in 2014:

- Indiana FFA
- Indiana Farm Bureau
- Indiana Corn Marketing Council
- Indiana State Poultry Association
- Allison Transmission
- Agribusiness Council of Indiana
- Indiana Corn Growers
- Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 86
- Hoosiers Work for Health Coalition
- Purdue Extension Leadership Development Program
- Indiana Cast Metals Association
- Cummins
- Indiana Hospital Association
- Indiana Council of Community Mental Health Centers
- Indiana Rural Electric Cooperatives
- Arc of Indiana
- Build Indiana Council
- Indiana American Legion
- Indiana Soybean Alliance Council
- Indiana Reserve Officers Association
- Indiana Career and Technical Directors
- Indiana Drug Enforcement Association
- Riley Child Development Center



Further, Joe knows that Indiana's students are the key to our future. That is why he especially values the time he is able to spend with the young people from schools across the state visiting D.C. Below is a list of middle schools, high schools, colleges, and universities that Joe was pleased to meet students from:

- DeKalb Middle School
- East Central High School
- St. Richard's Episcopal School
- Evansville Central High School
- ABC Stewart School

- Eastern Greene Middle School
- St. Simon the Apostle Catholic School
- Rushville Consolidated High School
- Kesling Middle School
- Boston Middle School
- R. Nelson Snider High School
- Reitz Memorial High School
- Delphi Middle School
- Indiana Math and Science Academy
- Evans Elementary School (via Skype)
- South Vermillion High School (via Skype)
- Indiana University
- Purdue University
- University of Notre Dame
- Wabash College
- DePauw University



Joe also had the chance to greet Hoosier veterans participating in the Honor Flight Network program in 2014 through visits from the chapters in Northeast Indiana, Greater Lafayette, Chicago, and Indianapolis.

Throughout 2014, Joe hosted 10 constituent coffees in his Washington, D.C. office to make Hoosiers visiting D.C. feel welcome. While visiting the office, families, students and advocacy groups of all kinds had the opportunity to meet Joe's staff, visit with fellow Hoosiers, and meet and take a photo with Joe.



## BEST IDEAS FROM BOTH PARTIES

### **Bipartisan Legislative Efforts in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress**

In the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress, Joe worked with 25 Republican colleagues on dozens of legislative efforts. Below are summaries of some of these efforts.

“...[Donnelly] said. ‘We’ve been in this period where people in Washington say they have to get everything they want or they are going to hold a press conference and stomp their feet up and down.’

That’s indeed been the way of Washington of late, but it’s gotten the country nowhere. And it’s a reminder of why Indiana was smart two years ago to send Joe Donnelly to the Senate.”

–Matt Tully in the Indianapolis Star, 12.22.14

**Senator Kelly Ayotte (NH):** *The Heroin and Prescription Opioid Abuse Prevention, Education, and Enforcement Act*, June 2014

Senators Donnelly and Ayotte (R-NH) introduced bipartisan legislation, S. 2504, *The Heroin and Prescription Opioid Abuse Prevention, Education, and Enforcement Act*, which aims to stop the abuse of prescription pain medication while also giving law enforcement the tools they need to prevent heroin use and addiction.

**Senator Roy Blunt (MO):** *Amendment to Portman-Shaheen Energy Efficiency Bill*, September 2013

Senators Donnelly and Blunt (R-MO) introduced an amendment to the Portman-Shaheen Energy Efficiency bill that would ensure that efforts to regulate carbon dioxide emissions are realistic about existing technology and do not negatively impact our economy.

**Senator John Boozman (AR):** *The National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act*, May 2013

Senators Donnelly and Boozman (R-AR) introduced S. 995, the *National Desert Storm and Desert Shield War Memorial Act*, which would authorize the National Desert Storm Memorial Association to establish the National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial on federal lands within the District of Columbia. No federal funds would be spent to build this memorial, as all funds would be raised privately by the National Desert Storm War Memorial Association. This legislation was passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law in December 2014.

**Senator Saxby Chambliss (GA):** *The Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014*, May 2014

Senators Donnelly and Chambliss (R-GA) jointly announced their support for S. 2244, the *Terrorism Risk Insurance Program Reauthorization Act of 2014*, which is bipartisan legislation that would reauthorize and extend the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act (TRIA), a vital program for businesses across Indiana that provides a federal backstop for insurance coverage against losses from terrorist attacks.

**Senator Dan Coats (IN):** Letter to CDFI Fund regarding New Markets Tax Credit, July 2013

Senators Donnelly and Coats (R-IN) sent a letter to the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund requesting that it consider expanding the list of “Targeted States” in the New Markets Tax Credit Program to ensure that underserved states, just outside of the original ten designated states, receive fair and accurate consideration for Qualified Low-Income Community Investment (QLICI) allocations.

*The Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act*, August 2013

Senators Donnelly and Coats (R-IN) introduced S. 1471, the *Alicia Dawn Koehl Respect for National Cemeteries Act*, which would give the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the U.S. Department of the Army the authority to disinter veterans buried in national cemeteries who committed a Federal or State capital crime. At the time, statute prohibited burying veterans who committed a Federal or State capital crime, but it did not allow the VA or Army to correct a mistake that has been made. This bill was passed by both the House and Senate and was signed into law in December 2013.

*Resolution Honoring the Life of Hoosier Abdul-Rahman (Peter) Kassig*, December 2014

Senators Donnelly and Coats (R-IN) introduced a resolution honoring the life of Abdul-Rahman (Peter) Kassig. The measure expresses condolences to Kassig’s family and pays tribute to Kassig’s extraordinary humanitarian work. In addition, the resolution condemns the terrorist acts of the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and urges the U.S. and international community to work together to address the threat posed by ISIL and the suffering of innocent civilians impacted by the conflict. This resolution was passed unanimously by the Senate in December 2014.

**Senator Tom Coburn (OK):** *The Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act*, December 2013

Senators Donnelly and Coburn (R-OK) introduced S. 1828, *The Preserving Access to Manufactured Housing Act*, which aims to adjust the threshold for when loans on manufactured housing will be considered high-cost, and therefore subject to higher liabilities and disclosure. Under the new guidelines, if a transaction is for less than \$50,000 and the home is considered personal property, then the interest rate on a mortgage cannot exceed Average Prime Offer Rate (APOR) by more than 8.5% or else it is considered ‘high-cost’ and subject to added liability and disclosure. The bill would change that threshold to APOR +10% for transactions under \$75,000. The bill also makes changes to the definition



of points and fees payable (compensation) and to the definition of mortgage loan originator.

**Senator Susan Collins (ME):** *Forty Hours is Full Time Act of 2013*, June 2013

Senators Donnelly and Collins (R-ME) introduced S. 1188, the *Forty Hours is Full Time Act of 2013*, which would change the definition of “full time” in the ACA to 40 hours per week. As they work together on a bipartisan legislative solution to develop clear, workable guidelines necessary for American businesses and workers, Senators Collins and Donnelly simultaneously urged President Obama to provide transition relief for employers. They co-authored a letter to the President strongly urging his Administration to work with the employer community to provide transition flexibility beyond January 1, 2014, free from the threat of penalty.

**Senator Ted Cruz (TX):** *Military Reserve Jobs Act*, July 2013

Senators Donnelly and Cruz (R-TX) introduced the *Military Reserve Jobs Act*, S. 1320, which would provide federal employment hiring preference to members of the National Guard and Reserves (the Reserve Component), who do not already qualify for veterans’ hiring preference. The National Guard Bureau estimates that approximately 159,400 Army National Guard soldiers (44 percent of the total force) and 73,700 Air National Guard airmen (70 percent of the total force) serve without having qualified for veterans’ preference.

**Senator Mike Enzi (WY):** Letter to Treasury on “Last-In, First-Out,” October 2014

Senators Donnelly and Enzi (R-WY) led a bipartisan group of 14 Senators in sending a letter to U.S. Department of the Treasury Secretary Jack Lew expressing concern with recent proposals that would repeal the accounting method of “last-in, first-out” (LIFO), which is used by many American businesses. LIFO is relied upon by many manufacturers, retailers, distributors, and small businesses. LIFO repeal could result in retroactive tax increases for many of these companies—costs that could ultimately be passed on to employees and consumers, hindering future growth and job creation.

**Senator Deb Fischer (NE):** *NDAA Amendment: Cross-Service Collaboration*, June 2013

Senators Donnelly and Fischer (R-NE) introduced an amendment during Senate Armed Services Committee consideration of the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act that would require the DOD to develop a strategy for collaboration across the Army, Air Force, and Navy strategic weapons programs, such as in the development of the Conventional Prompt Global Strike program.

**Senator Chuck Grassley (IA):** *Amendment to Farm Bill to Protect Livestock Producers’ Personal Information*, May 2013

Senators Donnelly and Grassley (R-IA) introduced an amendment to the Farm Bill that would prohibit the EPA from releasing personal information of livestock producers.

*The Farmer Identity Protection Act, July 2013*

Senators Donnelly and Grassley (R-IA) introduced the *Farmer Identity Protection Act*, legislation that would protect farmers and ranchers by prohibiting the EPA from disclosing their private and confidential information to the public.

Letter to USTR regarding Pork Producers and Trade Agreements, December 2013

Senators Donnelly and Grassley (R-IA) led a group of 31 senators in writing a letter to United States Trade Representative, Ambassador Michael Froman, and U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack about the importance of addressing barriers to market access for American pork producers in the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

**Senator Orrin Hatch (UT):** *Amendment to Budget in Support of Medical Device Tax Repeal*, March 2013

Senators Donnelly and Hatch (R-UT), along with Senators Klobuchar (D-MN) and Coats (R-IN) introduced a budget amendment, S. Amdt. 297 to S. Con. Res. 8, in support of repeal of the medical device tax in the Affordable Care Act. The amendment passed the Senate 79-20.

**Senator Dean Heller (NV):** *The Skills Gap Strategy Act*, October 2013

Senators Donnelly and Heller (R-NV) introduced S. 1619, *The Skills Gap Strategy Act*, which would direct the Secretary of Labor to develop a strategy to help close the “skills gap” by increasing on-the-job training and apprenticeship opportunities. It would encourage the Department of Labor to develop plans in consultation with the Departments of Commerce and Education to increase employer participation in education and workforce training. Recognizing current budgetary constraints, the bill asks the Department of Labor to focus on solutions that utilize existing resources, programs, and personnel. Closing the skills gap must be an employer-driven effort, but the federal government can help.

**Senator John Hoeven (ND):** *The North American Energy Infrastructure Act*, September 2014

Senators Donnelly and Hoeven (R-ND) introduced S. 2823, *The North American Energy Infrastructure Act*, which would streamline decision-making on cross-border permits by: eliminating the Presidential Permit requirement for projects crossing the national boundary between the United States and Canada or Mexico; establishing a 120-day time limit on the U.S. State Department following completion of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process to either issue a cross-border permit or deny approval if the project is not in the public interest of the United States; and expediting natural gas pipeline

permits to Canada or Mexico by requiring the Department of Energy to approve the permit within 30 days of receipt of a completed application.

**Senator Jim Inhofe (OK):** *The Public Power Risk Management Act*, December 2013

Senators Donnelly and Inhofe (R-OK) introduced S. 1802, *The Public Power Risk Management Act*, which would require that a utility operation-related swap with a utility special entity be treated the same as a utility operations-related swap with any other entity.

**Senator Johnny Isakson (GA):** *Resolution Recognizing Suicide Prevention Awareness Month*, September 2013

Senators Donnelly and Isakson introduced a resolution, S. Res. 262, to recognize Suicide Prevention Awareness Month.

**Senator Mike Johanns (NE):** Letter to EPA on the approval process for new biofuels, June 2014

Senators Donnelly and Johanns (R-NE) sent a letter to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Gina McCarthy requesting more information on the EPA's plans to improve the approval process for new biofuels and to reconsider agency actions that have created significant uncertainty in the marketplace.

**Senator Ron Johnson (WI):** *Fruit and Vegetable Amendment to Farm Bill*, May 2013

Senators Donnelly and Johnson (R-WI) introduced an amendment to the Farm Bill that would allow all kinds of fruits and vegetables to participate in the free school snack program as long as they meet basic nutrition standards.

**Senator Mark Kirk (IL):** Letter to Senate Finance Committee leaders on expiring manufacturing tax provisions, December 2013

Senators Donnelly and Kirk (R-IL) wrote a letter to Senate Finance Committee Chairman Max Baucus and Ranking Member Orrin Hatch asking them to consider keeping in place expiring tax provisions that are important to the continued growth of the American manufacturing industry.

**Senator John McCain (AZ):** Letter urging President Obama to send defensive weapons and share appropriate intelligence with Ukraine, August 2014

In light of Russia's increased military presence on the Ukrainian border, Senators Donnelly and McCain (R-AZ) wrote a letter to President Obama urging him to send appropriate defensive weapons and share appropriate intelligence with Ukraine.

**Senator Rob Portman (OH):** *The Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2013*, July 2013

Senator Donnelly joined Senators Portman (R-OH) and McCaskill (D-MO) in introducing the Federal Permitting Improvement Act of 2013, S. 1379. The legislation would expedite the federal permitting process and encourage investment by requiring government agencies to work together to cut red tape, set deadlines, and increase transparency.

**Senator Pat Roberts (KS):** *Biofuels Amendment to the Farm Bill*, May 2013

Senators Donnelly and Roberts (R-KS) successfully passed an amendment in the Senate Agriculture Committee to address the increasing use of crops for biofuels. This bipartisan amendment would amend the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program to offer coverage for crops producing feedstock for energy purposes. Further, the amendment would direct USDA to research and develop risk management tools promising new sorghum crops.

**Senator Jeff Sessions (AL):** Letter to the International Trade Commission on Hot-Rolled Steel, October 2013

Senators Donnelly and Sessions (R-AL) led a bipartisan group of 19 senators who wrote a letter to Chairman Williamson of the U.S. International Trade Commission asking that the Commission maintain the existing antidumping and countervailing duty orders against unfairly traded imports of hot-rolled steel. These trade orders help maintain a level playing field for an already vulnerable domestic steel industry.

**Senator Pat Toomey (PA):** *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Examination and Reporting Threshold Act of 2014*, July 2014

Senators Donnelly and Toomey (R-PA) introduced S. 2732, the *Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Examination and Reporting Threshold Act of 2014*, which would increase the threshold figure at which regulated depository institutions are subject to the direct examination and reporting requirements of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (CFPB). Currently, the CFPB has direct oversight of institutions with more than \$10 billion in assets. This proposed bill would increase that threshold to \$50 billion. The provisions within the bill would take effect 45 days after enactment.

**Senator Roger Wicker (MS):** *The Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act*, June 2013 and May 2014

In 2013, Senators Donnelly and Wicker (R-MS) first introduced *The Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2013*, which would have established a pilot program in each of the military services and reserve components to integrate comprehensive annual mental health assessments into a servicemember's Periodic Health Assessment and identify risk factors for mental illness so that servicemembers could access preventive care. Then, Donnelly and Wicker successfully offered an amendment during the FY 2014 National Defense Authorization Act debate in the Senate Armed Services Committee to require a



Department of Defense report on the possible implementation of the pilot program required under the Jacob Sexton Act.

In 2014, Senators Donnelly and Wicker introduced *The Jacob Sexton Military Suicide Prevention Act of 2014*, which was included in the FY 2015 NDAA reported out of the Senate Armed Services Committee and eventually signed into law in December 2014.